

HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINETH ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

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THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020, INDIA

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Printed at the Vasanta Press
The Theosophical Society
Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India

CONTENTS

	<i>PAGE</i>
Presidential Address 2014.....	1
Treasurer's Report 2013-2014.....	17
Headquarters:	
Officers and Heads of Departments for 2014.....	33
Summary of Statistics, 2014.....	34
The Theosophical Publishing House.....	35
The Adyar Library and Research Centre.....	35
The School of the Wisdom.....	37
Archives and Museum.....	37
Olcott Education Society.....	38
Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary.....	40
Besant Scout Camping Centre.....	41
The Theosophical Order of Service.....	41
Reports of General Secretaries:	
Africa, East and Central.....	47
Africa, South.....	47
Africa, West.....	47
Argentina (and Paraguay).....	48
Australia.....	48
Belgium.....	49
Brazil.....	49
Cuba.....	50
England.....	51
Finland.....	51
France.....	52
Germany.....	53
Greece.....	53
Iceland.....	53
India.....	54
Indonesia.....	55
Italy.....	55
Mexico.....	56
Netherlands.....	57
New Zealand.....	57
Philippines.....	58
Portugal.....	59
Spain.....	59
Sweden.....	60
United States of America.....	60

Reports of Organizing Secretaries:

America, Central.....	62
Austria.....	62
Canada.....	62
Chile.....	63
Ireland.....	63
Ivory Coast.....	64
Norway.....	64
Scotland.....	64
Slovenia.....	64
Togo.....	65
Ukraine.....	65
Uruguay.....	66
Wales.....	66

Reports of Presidential Representatives:

Asia, East and South-East.....	67
Bangladesh.....	68
Bolivia.....	69
Colombia.....	69
Costa Rica.....	69
Dominican Republic.....	70
Hungary.....	70
Pakistan.....	71
Peru.....	71
Puerto Rico.....	71
Russia.....	72
Sri Lanka.....	72
Switzerland.....	73
Venezuela.....	73

Reports of Lodges Attached to Adyar:

Lotus Lodge (Croatia).....	74
El Sol Lodge (Ecuador).....	74
Arc en Ciel Lodge (France).....	74
Ananda Lodge (France).....	74
Covenant Lodge (Israel).....	74
H. P. Blavatsky Lodge (Oatar).....	75
Orlando Lodge(USA).....	75

Directory.....	77
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Minutes of the General Council.....	81
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Presidential Address

To the 139th Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society
Adyar, 26 December 2014

I would like to welcome you all to this 139th Convention of the Theosophical Society. This is my first time presiding over an International Convention. It is a sincere honour, pleasure, and joy for me to participate with you in this important work, and to take time together to open ourselves to those Forces that seek to find an opening to bless this world. Please rise for the invocation that has been the source of inspiration for each of these Conventions:

**May those who are the embodiment of Love Immortal
bless with their help and guidance this Society, founded
to be a channel for their work. May They inspire it with
their Wisdom, strengthen it with their Power, and energize
it with their Activity.**

I am very glad to open this 139th Annual Convention of the TS.

Part of my function now is to present the Presidential Address, most of which will recap the work around the world from the various Theosophical Societies. Let us recall that the theme of this Convention is about Theosophy in changing World.

A year ago there was a sense of uncertainty within our Convention. Radha had passed. The process leading to a new president was under way. Change was in the air, but its nature was unclear. One year later the election process has ended and we are moving in a yet uncharted direction. One of the most basic recognitions for any conscious person is the fact of change. Whether the effects of change are welcomed or not, the fact that it is part of the fabric of existence is universally recognized. I know people who openly declare that they are opposed

to change. Although this is an unreasoned reaction, it is understandable. Change can be challenging.

When the use of computers was becoming widespread and the Internet was becoming widely available, I used to help my father with the business of his farm. He was then approaching 80. He would tell me the projects he was focusing on and I would show him ways that we could use technology to help accomplish it. I remember once showing him something on the computer. He asked, 'You can do all of that with this machine?' When I answered yes, his response was, 'I think I have lived too long'. Although it was typical of my father's humour, he meant that he felt overwhelmed by the rapid process of change. Unlike many, he did not oppose it. It was simply that having

spent a lifetime viewing the world from a particular angle, shifting that point of view was too demanding for him. In part as a result of the aggressive nature of the changes currently upon us, my father's response is now being echoed in a global sense of unease with the pace and direction of technology-driven change. Outer change requires some inner response. Given the relentless nature of change, for the mind that demands some sense of security, it can be disconcerting.

Helen Keller was born in the late 1800's without sight, hearing, or the ability to speak. During her life she overcame these substantial obstacles and went on to become a famous author, speaker, and one of the greatest humanitarian activists of the twentieth century. On the subject of change she said that 'Security is an illusion. It does not exist in Nature'. The idea that there is the possibility of some static condition in life is the product of superficial thinking and the source of needless suffering.

For us students of the Ageless Wisdom and members of the Theosophical Society, it is not uncommon to fall into a similar trap. Too many sincere spiritual seekers find themselves searching for peace, enlightenment, and liberation on their own terms. These words are familiar to all of us, but the reality behind them goes beyond terminology. What is peace? What is enlightenment? Too often the conventional view of these states of consciousness is negative in the sense that peace, for example, is regarded as a void,

an absence of strife, conflict, worry, personal difficulties, and so on. In essence the imagined fruit of the state of being at peace is static and unchanging. This is more of an expression of a personal desire for comfort than a description of reality. So many things in the spiritual life can become coloured by the projection of our personal wants. Until we become grounded in the experience of a higher life, we are necessarily subject to such projections.

In her *Inner Group Teachings* H. P. Blavatsky made the poignant statement that 'Whatever plane our consciousness may be acting in, both we and the things belonging to that plane are, for the time being, the only realities'. In a certain sense, we are stuck. We cannot see what we cannot see. One of the beauties of a genuine embrace of the Theosophical worldview and its teachings is that it holds the potential for transformation for an utterly new way of seeing. There is no formula or roadmap for this type of profound change, but within us there is a certainty of two things, 1) transformation is possible, and, 2) at the deepest levels of our being, it is our need. Whenever we reach a point in our unfoldment where we find meaning in something like Theosophy, it is because we are approaching a more expansive plane of consciousness.

Facing the pressing needs in the world today, we must ask ourselves what we can do to hasten this unfoldment, and turn our faces towards a world in need.

* * *

Based on the reports that have been received to date, the overall TS membership has dropped slightly from 26,744 last year to 26,351. This is less than a 1% drop, and not a cause for concern. The highlight of the activities during the year was the 37th **European Congress** held in Paris from 30 July to 3 August at the **French Section's** headquarters and the 'Adyar' Theatre. The Congress theme was 'Bridging Science and Spirituality', and it was coordinated with the European Federation, while the Section handled the logistics. Around 190 participants attended from 24 countries, mostly from European Sections, but also the USA, South America, Australia, and Asia. I was the guest of honour, and gave two lectures, led a meeting with members, and agreed to be interviewed. The General Secretary and President of the European Federation, Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, reports that the French Section added two Lodges during the year: Alcyone in Paris and Jeanne d'Arc in Orléans, the latter having been revived. As part of my European summer tour, I visited the **Italian Section**, the largest on the continent, to attend their 100th National Congress, taking place in Vicenza in early June. The attendees were an enthusiastic audience and my talks were well organized and received. In addition to speaking during the Congress, I delivered other lectures for the Vicenza and Venice Lodges. Mr Ricardo Lindemann also spoke during the Congress and gave lectures for the Florence and Rome groups. The General Secretary, Mr Antonio Girardi, writes that their website is constantly up-

dated, tracking an average of more than 3,000 visitors every month and presenting videos of theosophical conferences. Their monthly magazine has a run of 1,300 copies, with over 1,000 subscribers, and their monthly news-letter is emailed to over 2,400 people interested in theosophical activities in Italy. The Section's activities in cooperation with the Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) were intensive. While visiting **the Netherlands**, I met with the Dutch Section in Amsterdam for the whole of 10 August, their 'Dutch Day', during which members had an opportunity to interact with me. The General Secretary, Ms Els Rijnker, tells us that their Section held seven other programmes during the year, including a five-day silent retreat, a large symposium involving sister organizations, two Krishnamurti study days, and an ongoing six-day program on meditation.

In northern Europe the **Finnish Section**, with 23 lodges and 2 study groups, is the largest in the Nordic countries. Their General Secretary (and also our International Secretary), Ms Marja Artamaa, states that 17 members attended the European Congress in Paris, where they had the pleasure of having an opportunity to meet with the international President. Both Ms Artamaa and Mr Tim Boyd attended the International Theosophical Conference held in the International Theosophical Centre in Naarden, the Netherlands, held in July, which congenially brought together members from several theosophical organizations in addition to the TS. The Section has

upgraded their technical facilities and are now webcasting, beginning with three lectures and practices on 'Mindfulness'. Their theosophical library in Helsinki now has a computerized catalogue and an updated reference library. The Lodges hold regular public lectures in 17 towns, 14 of which run their own library. The TOS in Finland supports the Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School, the Social Welfare Centre, and the Boys' Hostel in Adyar. The **Icelandic Section** held their regular summer school and Friday and Saturday meetings during the year. During January and February a group of members viewed seven DVDs of dialogues between J. Krishnamurti and Drs David Bohm and David Shainberg, *The Transformation of Man*, followed by very fruitful discussions. The Section's biannual journal, *Gangleri*, has been published since 1926. It is sold to over 700 subscribers. Their website has a new name and is in Icelandic and English. It is frequently visited by enquirers and they have often had applications for membership through this page. Unfortunately, the General Secretary, Mr Halldor Haraldsson, says the Section is still going through financial difficulties due to the economic crisis in 2008. The **Swedish Section's** General Secretary, Mr Pertti Spets, reports the formation of a new study centre in Stockholm. A series of regular gatherings, lectures, and autumn and spring courses were held, including the study of *The Secret Doctrine*, Patañjali's *Yoga Sutras*, Advaita Vedanta, and John Algeo's *Theosophy — An Introductory Study*

Course. The Organizing Secretary of the TS in **Norway**, Dr Saleh Noshie, writes that due partly to lack of funds their activities for the year have been only on Facebook, and that the international President's blog, which is always posted on their website, is much appreciated by all.

Membership of the **English Section** (TSE), the largest in Europe, has remained mostly stable over the past year. After Mr Eric McGough retired due to ill health, Mr Colin Price was re-elected in April. We are told that much of the year has been focused on cutting financial losses and ensure resources for future growth. The sale of Tekels Park Estate, steered by Treasurer Piero Soteriou, was concluded in September; the proceeds were donated to a new account, set up and controlled by the TSE at the Charities Aid Foundation to benefit the TSE via charitable giving, and the money ethically invested to provide an income which will sustain the Section once full charitable status is achieved. The English Summer School continued to be well supported, with over 100 people attending for a week of lectures and study groups. The Headquarters building continued to be used extensively for lectures and study groups throughout the week in term time. The Dhyana Centre, sections meditation Lodge, is particularly popular, with around 100 members and sessions at least three days a week and some weekends. In **Ireland**, Mrs Marie Harkness reports that they have had a successful year. Their All-Ireland Convention took place in Dublin held in June with an international lecturer

as guest speaker, Mr Bhupendra Vora, who addressed the appreciative audience on 'The Mystical Journey'. Over half of the members of the TS in **Scotland** have studied the Diploma Course in Theosophy introduced by the English Section. Additional funding has again been made available to assist members in traveling to summer schools in England and Europe. In **Wales**, the Organizing Secretary, Ms Julie Cunningham, states that visiting speakers sponsored by the Foundation for Theosophical Studies included the Organizing Secretary from Scotland, Mr Gary Kidgell, who gave two talks at different Lodges. The General Secretary of the English Section, Mr Colin Price, Mr David Harvey, from South Wales, and three other speakers from the English Section, including Mr Wayne Gatfield, were also visiting speakers. Eleven new members are taking the English Section's Diploma Course in Theosophy and 34 others have been awarded the diploma over the past three years.

In early December the **Spanish Section** held their sixth Silent Retreat directed by Tr  n-Thi-Kim-Di  u, with 50 people attending. The study was based on *At the Feet of the Master* by Krishnamurti and *Viveka-Chudamani* by Shankara, and the activities were always combined with meditation. At Easter, the Section had its 36th 'Jornadas Ib  ricas' (Spanish Days) over a four-day period, held in San Lorenzo del Escorial, near Madrid, with 50 people attending. Most of the Spanish Lodges were represented. As in the last few years, Hesperia Lodge (in Madrid)

and the General Secretary, Mrs Angels Torra, organized the event, with the theme 'The Hermetic Thought'. The Section's summer school had 132 participants doing a comparative study of *The Voice of the Silence* and *The Path of the Bodhisattva* by Shantideva, led by Mr Fernando de Torrijos. During the year the Section gained 2 new study centres. The **Portuguese Section's** General Secretary, Mr Carlos Guerra, says that a set of public functions were held in Lisbon consisting of talks and discussion sessions that would encourage spontaneous contributions from the participants and panels. These were coordinated by different members and occasionally by invitees, always trying to attract members. As in previous years, 3 out of the 11 Lodges were active in a decentralized manner: in Lisbon, Porto, and   vora; and one study group is actively working in the Azores. The **Greek Section** says that a new study group of 9 members has been formed in the island of Crete, named *Radamanthis*. Although their annual membership fee remains at 40 Euros, their quarterly magazine, *Ilisos*, is given free to all 215 members, and the current magazine subscribers stand at about 500.

In **Germany**, Mrs Manuela Kaulich was re-elected as General Secretary during their General Assembly held in June. Ms Mary Anderson, former international Vice-President and Secretary, was again the guest of honour at their summer school, this time studying Clara Codd's *Theosophy as the Masters See It*. The summer school was held in mid-June,

earlier in the year, to facilitate members' attendance at the European Congress in Paris. All 3 **Austrian Lodges** offer weekly lectures throughout the study year, with subjects based on classical theosophical teachings and related subjects. Lecture topics are regularly placed on the TS in Austria website. In October the European School of Theosophy took place near the city of Graz, with the focus being on the teachings of H. P. Blavatsky and the *Mahatma Letters*. A precarious financial situation continues to be voiced by the representatives of the 3 Lodges, yet they hope to overcome this situation and are confident that the future of the Austrian TS is secured. The General Secretary of the **Belgian Section**, Mrs Sabine Van Osta, states that they have been developing an action plan since early September to modernize the Section's programmes and presentation. They are putting special emphasis on Wallonia, the French-speaking southern part of the country, by seeking inspiration mainly from sister Sections and their Lodges, and reconnecting with them more actively. In the Brussels headquarters they have regular sessions around J. Krishnamurti's teachings in addition to a basic programme of Introduction to Theosophy.

From the TS in **Slovenia**, Mrs Breda Zagar writes that all four Lodges had regular weekly meetings, with public lectures being held in three of them. Two new members joined in Ljubljana. Four seminars were organized during the year in a spirit of harmony, brotherly feelings, and joy. Their annual meeting had 74%

attendance of the membership and the Presidents of all four Lodges. They are glad that Adyar Lodge in Ljubljana has finally moved to new premises, which has increased their enthusiasm and will facilitate their work. Mr Thomas Martinovich informs us that the work of the TS in **Hungary** continued in all of their 3 Lodges, two of them in Budapest. They organized ten monthly public lectures from September through June, with attendance ranging from 25 to 50. The main subjects dealt with practical application of theosophical principles. A few days after each lecture 'open meetings' were organized to meet with enquirers and answer any questions arising out of the lectures, which are recorded and uploaded unto the website of the particular Lodge, complemented with slides. The Presidential Representative in **Russia**, Mr Pavel Malakhov, reports that 5 out of the 7 Lodges had their weekly meetings during the year, where they studied mainly *The Secret Doctrine* and other teachings in the light of the *SD*. Every month the Moscow Lodge has two public theosophical lectures followed by discussion of the topic, and a members-only meeting to plan the activities of the Lodges. They have three publishing vehicles: a bimonthly e-newsletter with 350 subscribers, an e-magazine with a hard-copy run of 100 dedicated to the classical literature of theosophy, and a yearly magazine with articles of modern Russian theosophists. They also have a list (and growing) of Internet activities of Russian members on the TS in Russia website. Mr Malakhov

visited all 7 Lodges and some theosophical groups, confirming their work. He ends his report by stating that the theosophical movement in Russia is undoubtedly gaining strength. In **Ukraine** Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko tells us that in the fall of last year they added a new Lodge and became a Regional Association. In June of this year, the first General Meeting of the TS in Ukraine took place, resulting in her election as the new Organizing Secretary. They held their Ninth All-Ukrainian Convention in November of last year with over 70 participants. All 5 TS Lodges and 2 study centres conducted regular meetings and studied classic theosophical literature during the year. A new cell of the TOS was started in Ukraine, and additional cells were also created in six different cities. A Scientific Group was formed during the year. They now have their own website and every Lodge and study centre has their own page on it. A delegation of 10 members attended the European Congress in Paris, and 3 members gave talks at the 3rd All-Russian Conference in Moscow in March. A total of 6 seminars, 1 round table, and 43 public lectures took place in different cities of Ukraine.

Mr Abraham Oron, President of the **Tel Aviv Lodge**, attached to Adyar, says that their Lodge is quite active, with 3 public meetings each month, held in two locations; 3 members' meetings on a weekly basis each month on different theosophical subjects, including round-table reading, discussion, and meditation on chosen sections of *The Secret Doctrine*;

3 one-day excursions per year, with hiking, meditation, and discussion of various spiritual aspects of Nature; 2 weekend seminars per year in different sacred places, such as the Dead Sea and a Jerusalem monastery; monthly advanced study meetings for facilitators; one yearly convention in May; 2 introductory courses in Theosophy per year of about 15 meetings each; and 2 courses during the year dealing with harmful emotions using Theosophical and Buddhist perspectives. Monthly meetings are held by 6 active study groups focusing on Theosophical subjects. Issue number 100 of their bi-annual magazine, *Or* (Light), just turned from hard-copy to an internet edition, with a mailing list of 3,500 sympathizers. From the **West African Section**, General Secretary John Boakye reports that they managed to go ahead with planned activities in spite of tremendous difficulties and challenges faced during the year. These have affected their membership, which has not been growing as expected, but they are not losing hope for improvement. A public lecture and two schools of the Wisdom were held at the headquarters building, known as 'Theosophy House', which they have established with individual members' contributions. The plot of land is in a prime area and was donated by a now-deceased member, offering the Section an opportunity to have a place of their own. The **East and Central African Section** is comprised of four countries (referred by them as Regions): they are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia. The Section has 5 Lodges, two of them

in Zambia. The largest Lodge is in Nairobi, Kenya, which held 31 meetings in Gujarati, 19 in English, and 9 joint meetings. This Lodge is also involved in various TOS activities, including donations of lamps, water tanks, medical assistance to the needy, and tree-planting. Mufulira Lodge in Zambia and Dar-es-Salaam Lodge in Tanzania have also been involved in various TOS activities during the year. All the Lodges meet regularly, mostly weekly. The General Secretary, Mr Ebrony Peteli, reaffirms their commitment to strengthen the Section's work.

In the Indo-Pacific region, the **Indian Section**, with 16 Federations and 459 Lodges, remains the largest in the TS Adyar. Mr S. Sundaram was re-elected unopposed as the General Secretary for another term of 3 years. Their annual convention was held in Adyar in December 2013, chaired by the former International Secretary, Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy, and addressed by the former Vice-President, Mr M. P. Singhal. Annual conferences were held by most Federations. The former Vice-President and former Secretary were chief guests in one such annual conference each, and the General Secretary was the chief guest in three of these annual conferences. The 91st South India Conference was held in Adyar during the Easter holidays with 145 participants. The theme was *The Key to Theosophy* by HPB. There were 12 speakers and it was inaugurated by the former international Secretary. The concluding address was given by Dr A. Kannan. The North Indian Study camp

was held in Varanasi during October 2013 with 65 delegates from Federations. Prof. R. C. Tampi and Mr P. K. Jayaswal directed the study camp on the theme of *The Secret Doctrine*. Another study camp was organized jointly by Bihar and UP Federations on *The Key to Theosophy* in March 2014. MP, Rajasthan, and UP Federations jointly organized a study camp on *The Voice of the Silence* by HPB in July 2014 with about 70 participants. The Section Headquarters conducted the Presidential Election in accordance with the Rules of the Society and the procedures laid down. Dr Annie Besant's 166th Birth Anniversary and other TS holidays were duly celebrated by the Indian Section.

The General Secretary attended the Indo-Pacific conference held at Bali, Indonesia, in November 2013 and spoke at the Conference. He visited different Federations and Lodges in India during the year and spoke at many places. The Assistant General Secretary, Mr Pradeep Mahapatra, was the Chief Guest at the annual conference of the Bihar Theosophical Federation and visited several Lodges in AP, Odisha, and the Lodge at Bhowali. National Lecturers Mr P. K. Jayaswal, Mr C. A. Shinde, Mr N. C. Krishna, Mr B. D. Tendulkar, Mr S. S. Gautam, Mr A. P. Lokhande and Mr S. K. Pande gave talks at various places during the year. Mr Pedro Oliveira, former International Secretary, delivered a talk on 'The Future of Humanity' at Bengaluru City Lodge. The Bhowali Centre, with excellent conference facilities,

food, and accommodation, has been set up in the Himalayas, which is being increasingly used for study camps and retreats. *The Indian Theosophist* monthly journal was published with a circulation of 3,500 copies. A special number was published to commemorate 125 years of publication of *The Key to Theosophy* and *The Voice of the Silence* by HPB. In addition to the Section journal, 13 Federations published their own journals at regular intervals.

The **Australian Section** held its annual convention in Sydney last January. It now has a new home for their National Headquarters on the Sydney city fringe. The Section is working on a new website that is almost complete and has established a social media presence with a Facebook Page. Contact with members is established through newly established e-bulletins sent out from the National Headquarters. In addition to the four printed editions of the national magazine *The General Secretary*, Mrs Linda Oliveira, visited nearly all the centres around the Section during the year. The **New Zealand** Section held its annual convention in Auckland with the theme 'Our Potential for Change'. It has put together a strategic plan for the next 3 years. The focus will be on creating a greater public awareness of Theosophy in New Zealand and making greater use of the Internet and Social Media to engage members and the public in an exploration of theosophical principles and ideas, with the aim of bringing people together in workshops and helping at branches throughout the country. This also includes the use

of webinars and the live broadcasting of future events. The Section has also been reviewing its board structure over the last couple of years, moving to a smaller elected board, bringing it into line with current best practices. A vote was held by National Referendum of the members on the proposal, resulting in an overwhelming majority of respondents voting in favour.

Indonesia hosted the Indo-Pacific Federation Conference in Bali in November 2013. This was a very successful gathering with almost 100 representatives from the Indo-Pacific region. Activities take place in Jakarta, Bundung, Solo, and Surabaya. The General Secretary, Mr Herry Ispoernomo, passed away early this year, so there is an election process underway for a replacement. Mr Vic Hao Chin Jr. facilitated a 'Process of Self-Transformation' seminar in Bundung in January 2014. Mr B. L. Bhattacharya has been appointed as Presidential Representative for **Bangladesh** and reports that they have 5 lodges. He was able to visit 4 of them during the year. At the **Philippine** National Convention, members decided on the major thrust of the Section, which includes the promotion of individual spiritual growth of members through Self-Transformation Seminars, retreats, study courses towards transformational education, youth programmes, and to spread a knowledge of theosophy through the use of the Internet. The TS and TOS undertook intensive relief services to the victims of the devastating Haiyan typhoon with five containers of construction materials, clothes and food shipped to

affected areas with the support of the international theosophical community. The TS continues to run five theosophical schools with a total of 793 enrolled students. The Theosophical Publishing House in Manila released *Sharing the Light Vol. 3* by Geoffrey Hodson, funded by the Geoffrey Hodson Book Fund.

Mr Chong Sanne, the former President of Singapore Lodge, was appointed as the Presidential Representative for the **East and Southeast Asia** area in November 2013. This includes Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Myanmar, and China. **Singapore** Lodge has a membership of around 400 and hosts the Chinese Project Team, which develops the Chinese website for promoting Theosophy to Chinese-speaking people, including, of course, China. It also carries out translations of theosophical literature into Chinese. This year the Lodge ran the 37th Edition of *A Course in Theosophy & Meditation*, continuing to attract new members and giving a good broad grounding in the Theosophical teachings. They also held 15 sessions on *The Voice of the Silence*, attracting an average of 40 members per session. The Nippon Lodge in Tokyo, **Japan**, has 50 members. They have their own website and hold monthly study classes, attracting an average of 10 members. Recent works include Japanese translations of *The Secret Doctrine*, *Isis Unveiled*, and *The Voice of the Silence*. The Lodge also publishes a bimonthly magazine, *The Japanese Theosophist*, which includes translations of articles from popular TS literature. The Selangor Lodge, the

only one in **Malaysia**, has 83 members, holding regular talks, study groups and discussions. This year the Lodge inaugurated a meditation room for the use of members. Study classes were also held on the *Bhagavadgita*. **Myanmar** (Burma), at its peak in 1936, had twelve Lodges with 167 members. Today the resurrected Yangon TS has only one Lodge, the Olcott Lodge with 34 members. The Lodge has kept a low profile for a long period, attracting few members, but it has now initiated a 7-step roadmap to attract new membership. The Lodge currently has a Conscious Force Meditation every week and a Life Force Meditation every full moon with the occasional meditation trip to the ancient sacred places around Myanmar. They study theosophical literature and view theosophical videos and webcasts.

The work of the **TS in America (TSA)** is necessarily collaborative. In recent years, the role of **Internet and information technology** has come to be a vital component in almost everything that is done, with the aim to make the Theosophical teachings and worldview more available to both members and the public. Every day we present public programs at the Olcott national centre, with more of that programming being made available online, both in live streaming and as archival video and audio available on our Website. Our classes and lectures are normally viewed and participated in, live, in countries around the world. We hosted two **international events**. The first was the Inter-American Theosophical

Federation Congress. It was held in May at the Olcott headquarters, drawing members from fourteen countries in North, South, and Central America for meetings, programs, and the triennial election of officers. In July, we hosted the 'Education for a New Humanity' conference. For four days it brought together educators from several educational models with links to Theosophy: Krishnamurti, Waldorf, Montessori, Raja Yoga, Golden Link schools; The Prairie School of Dupage; and Education for Life.

To support our local groups, the **National Secretary**, Mr David Bruce, schedules national speakers to visit the various lodges, study centres, camps, and federations. During the last fiscal year, 20 national speakers gave 71 presentations at 41 locations. The **prison program** continues to reach out to inmates across the country, with very good results. The **Henry S. Olcott Memorial Library** has improved its online presence through a redesigned web page and catalogue. Marina Maestas was welcomed back into her previous role as Library Director in December. About 50 new titles are added to the collection each month. Library acquisition funding is directly tied to the sales of our Amazon store. The **Public Programs Department** strives to provide a wide range of programmes for study, meditation, service, and community participation. The Thursday night lectures are intended for the general public and cover an eclectic range of topics from different traditions. By webcasting many of these programs, we reach a larger

national and international audience. We continue the effort to develop and offer more online programs in the interactive **webinar** format. These include a number of classes such as 'The Process of Self-Transformation' with Vic Hao Chin Jr and 'At Home with Theosophy' with Pablo Sender. The **Theosophical Publishing House (TPH)**, in addition to printing the usual around ten books per year, and the production of e-books is continuing at an accelerated pace. We have added an additional 30 titles since January 2014. Our Foreign Rights and Permissions Manager has brought over 20 new contracts from publishers in Spain, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Germany, and Italy. We hope to facilitate a greater flow of resources from the American section to Adyar. Particularly in the areas of technology and archive management, we can expect high levels of cooperation between our two campuses.

The largest and most active Section in Latin America is the TS in **Brazil**, headed by Mr Marcos L. B. de Resende. Although Lodge 'Amizade' had to close during the year, they have added the 'Sobral' study group in Ceara state. They currently have 33 Lodges and 18 study groups. In addition to their numerous Lodge and study group regular meetings and seminars, the national gatherings included the 33rd summer school, with an attendance of 170 who studied Clara Codd's *The Technique of the Spiritual Life*. There were 8 other national gatherings with several lecturers each on theosophical themes. Their 19th International School of Theosophy was

held over 5 days in July with the theme 'Ancient Wisdom — A Way to Self-Awareness' and was attended by 120 people. The main speakers were Mr Antonio Girardi, General Secretary of the Italian Section and Mrs Patrizia Calvi, Under Secretary of the same, giving 6 and 3 lectures respectively. The Section has many departments, including Bookshop, Editing House, Training, Internet, and TOS. They also have three institutes: one in Brasilia and the Raja Theosophical Centre and Pythagoras Institute, both in Sao Paulo. Their quarterly magazine has a run of 1,500 copies and is sent to every member in the country, with the remaining copies sent to the Lodges and study groups. The **Cuban Section** is the second largest in Latin America. Their General Secretary, Mrs Bárbara Fariñas Piña, reports that the Section obtained official permission from the government authorities for the publication of their Theosophical e-magazine, *Revista Teosófica Cubana*, which started its publication in January of this year as a quarterly in electronic form. Their Annual Convention was celebrated in January, with the theme 'Important Theosophical Criteria in Our Work'. The studies in the Lodges have continued as in previous years with themes based on theosophical books, lectures, and articles. The Havana Lodges organized a summer school workshop with the theme 'Diagram of Meditation', attended by 30 active members. The closing conference was open to the public, with constructive participation in the form of suggestions and questions. Some mem-

bers from Havana, including Ms Fariñas, visited three out of the four Lodges outside the capital, in the cities of Matanzas, Santa Clara, and Cienfuegos. The TS in **Mexico** had a very active year, with three electoral processes. The General Secretary, Mrs Lissette Arroyo, writes that Mr Enrique Sánchez (the only candidate) was elected as National President for 2015-2017, taking office on 17 February. Mexico participated in the Inter-American Theosophical Federation (IATF) Congress held at the TSA headquarters in Wheaton from 28 May to 1 June. The theme was 'Theosophy as Action', and Mrs Arroyo lectured about 'Inner Life and Daily Life'. During the Congress, Mrs Arroyo participated in the IATF meeting, where Mrs Isis Resende (the only candidate) was elected as President of the IATF and Mrs Arroyo as Vice President. Mexico has 12 Lodges and 4 study centres, two of which are awaiting their Charters.

The **Argentinian Section** has a Centre in San Rafael, Mendoza, that holds study and reflection activities for members and sympathizers, where they held the Section's 50th Summer School in January with Juan Viñas as coordinator and 70 participants in attendance. The topics were: 'Theosophy: A knowledge applied to everyday life' and 'The Theosophical Society: A critical analysis of its objectives'. TS members from Chile, Bolivia, Peru, and Cuba participated in the activities, making suggestions with innovative ideas. The Section organized successful book fairs in San Lorenzo and

Río Cuarto, where they distributed many information flyers about the work of the TS and sold quite a number of books. The contents of their web page continues to grow. They completed the painting of their building at a high cost with the contribution and efforts of all the members. From the TS in **Bolivia**, Teresa Weyer de Núñez reports that they celebrated all commemorative dates and held numerous regular meetings and study courses in their 11 Lodges and 2 study groups, with joint meetings on the last Sunday of every month. During their national gatherings they had speakers visiting from Argentina (Maria Rosa Martinez and Ernesto Garcia), who spoke in the Cochabamba Headquarters and in the city of Santa Cruz; and Isaac Jauli, from Spain, and former General Secretary of the Mexican Section, who also spoke in Cochabamba and in La Paz. Bolivia had their national gathering in Cochabamba in April and in San Benito in August. Their Headquarters also held 6 workshops and 5 conferences during the year. **Chile** writes that their Convention had as its theme 'Inner Knowledge, Spiritual Key'. They distribute pamphlets about Theosophy on subways and electronic pages. In addition to the printed magazine, they have an electronic Theosophical Brochure, a blog, and a Facebook and Twitter presence, all of which have been well received. In addition to regular Lodge meetings and study groups, their public meetings offer Theosophy courses and programmes such as 'Krishnamurthi in our lives'. The Presidential Represen-

tative in **Peru** tells us that their main concern revolves around the danger of their losing their property to trespassers. Despite the struggles of trying to recover their land, their 2 Lodges offered 12 public meetings. In addition, they offered free an internet course on Theosophy for the public. The Lodges carry on with their studies as well. On 1 June they also celebrated the 90th anniversary of the founding of the TS in Peru. The Director of the TOS in Peru has established a Facebook page spreading news about protection of animals and the environment. The TS in **Uruguay**'s library is very active in lending books to members and opens three days a week for public use. Their 5 Lodges meet once a week and study theosophical and related teachings. The TOS in Uruguay is very active, providing a variety of free services, from recycling bottle taps to offering free classes in English, Portuguese, and Chi-kung. They also offer psychology workshops.

Puerto Rico and the **Dominican Republic** are both headed by Presidential Representative Magaly Polanco, who says that in Puerto Rico they have had very fruitful meetings, offering public lectures focusing on theosophical subjects every Sunday from 10 am to noon. Mr Gaspar Torres, from the Krotona Institute of Theosophy and former General Secretary of the TS in Cuba, gave 3 lectures, and also led a workshop, with over 50 participants. Puerto Rico completed the painting of their building at a high cost with the contribution and efforts of all the members. In the **Dominican Republic**

they received the visit of Mr Jesus López from Puerto Rico, who gave 3 lectures over a month's time. Mr Torres also visited this Presidential Agency, holding a series of presentations and a day-long seminar, in addition to being the keynote speaker at the White Lotus Day celebration on 8 May. He also gave a public lecture, a seminar in Santo Domingo, a meeting for members only, and a lecture to over 100 high school students in San Cristóbal.

Costa Rica has gained 2 members during the year, with 5 Lodges and one informal Centre for Theosophical Studies. Presidential Representative Maria de los Angeles Orlich informs us that they have a study group in Cartago City that meets weekly. The Regional Association in **Central America** has a new Organizing Secretary in Beatriz E. Martínez who was elected during the year with a two-year term. They also made changes to their Constitution. A directed study on *The Voice of the Silence* was conducted and also a series of public lectures and video conferences. Finally, after a period of silence, the TS in **Venezuela** writes that they have three coordinators: Ms Nelly Nouel, Oscar J. Hernández and Omar González, who are trying to revive and strengthen the activities in the country.

At the **International Headquarters** in Adyar, there have been some changes apart from the new President. Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy has been elected as the international Vice-President and Ms Marja Artamaa has been appointed as the International Secretary. Other appointments include Mr S. M. Umakanth

Rao as Acting Manager, Theosophical Publishing House, and Dr Cyril Samuels as Veterinary Doctor in the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary. The Estate Administration Committee and the Election Committee steered the affairs of the TS well particularly in the absence of the late President. Two main roads were repaired and two others were newly laid, the lift in the Leadbeater Chambers was replaced, several wells were desilted, and repair and painting work was undertaken in many buildings. Mr S. Ramkumar chipped in whenever necessary.

The turnover of the **Theosophical Publishing House** was Rs. 2.1 million this year, a little less than the previous year's turnover of Rs. 2.3 million. Subscription to journals has increased. Only 8 reprints were brought out during the year but several more have been authorized by the newly constituted TPH Council. The accounts of the TPH, which were neglected between October 2013 and March 2014 have been brought up to date. The **Adyar Library and Research Centre's** work was strengthened by the appointment of Prof. T. Narayanan Kutty as Director, Dr S. Bhubaneswari as Research Officer, and Mrs Padma Padmanabhan as Research Assistant. The Library's bulletin, *Brahmavidyā*, 2012-13, was published along with a supplement containing articles on *The Secret Doctrine* by HPB on completion of its 125th year of publication. A special commemorative issue of *Brahmavidyā* for 2014-15 in honour of Dr Radha Burnier, former Director of the Adyar Library for

20 years, is under preparation. Four sessions of the **School of the Wisdom** were conducted by Mr Pedro Oliveira, Prof R. C. Tampi (Director of the School), Venerable Olande Ananda and Dr Ravi Ravindra. The **Olcott Education Society** continued its work through its five units. One of its former units, the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary, was transferred to the Management of the TS as approved by the OES Board and the Executive Committee of the TS. Formal approval of the Government was received this year for upgradation of the Olcott Memorial High School to a Higher Secondary School. OES was able to get adequate financial help from Indian and other donors to support the upgradation of the School, to the Higher Secondary level and for higher wages now being given to the teachers and other staff of OES. The school students are doing well overall. A computer centre was set up in the school with help received from a Corporate donor. The **Social Welfare Centre** continues to run a day-care centre cum nursery school for about 60 children of working parents from low income groups. The Vocational Training Centre has 22 women students undergoing one year course in weaving, tailoring, and embroidery. Recently the Vocational Training Centre has been collaborating with the Unnati Foundation of Bengaluru to conduct short-term vocational training in various trades for unemployed youth aged 18-30, to help them find employment. The first batch of 8 students, including 2 former students of the Olcott

School, completed their training and have found employment earning from Rs.7,000 to Rs.12,000. The HPB hostel is running well. It accommodates 12 boys from class 5 – 12. The Visitors Centre is operated by the OES, which has many Theosophical books, magazines, information booklets, beautiful photographs of flowers, trees, birds, and buildings from the TS campus. The **Besant Scout Camping Centre** was used by 22 institutions/scout groups, benefiting about 1,200 children through camping activities. The **Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary** continued its work taking care of animals, with 3,226 cases treated during the year. The Centre is helped by the Animal Welfare Committee, now chaired by Mr Anoop Jaiswal. The **TOS International** continued its work with Mrs Diana Dunningham Chapotin as its International Secretary. It had a year characterized by increased collaboration with the TS. It emphasized projects to protect women against discrimination and violence, and assistance for education of children in Karachi and to families displaced by war in Syria. Work was intensified in Ukraine, France, Italy, India, Spain, Australia, Congo, and Pakistan. A special effort was made in November 2013 to support the TOS in the Philippines following the super-cyclone that hit parts of Southeast Asia. Donations flowed in from all over the world. There was greater coverage of TOS work in TS magazines and Lodges. I hope you enjoy the grounds, each other, and these programmes.

TIM BOYD

**THE TREASURER'S REPORT
AND
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2014**

TREASURER'S REPORT 2013-2014

The salient features of the Income and Expenditure Account of the Society for the year ended 31st March 2014 are as under:

1. Income:

The details of the income for the year 2013-2014 as compared to the year 2012-2013 are as follows:

	Year ended 31.03.2013 Rs.	Year ended 31.03.2014 Rs.
Interest Received	23,474,683	24,934,807
Fees and Dues	3,030,642	2,537,443
Surplus from		
Theosophical Publishing House	929,510	1,092,414
General Donations	350,401	1,532,987
Licence Fees	144,000	144,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	14,689	1,479
	<u>27,943,925</u>	<u>30,243,130</u>
Less: Interest transferred to earmarked funds	<u>9,697,117</u>	<u>9,918,117</u>
	<u>18,246,808</u>	<u>20,325,013</u>

The overall increase in net income is Rs.2,078,205/- over previous year after transfer of the interest to the funds wherever applicable.

2. Expenditure:

The summary of the expenditure of the Society for the year is as follows:

	Year ended 31.03.2013	Year ended 31.03.2014
	Rs.	Rs.
Departments	8,115,445	10,955,143
Charitable work	3,111,820	3,376,431
Propagation of Theosophy	1,870,407	2,607,629
International Offices	909,492	960,495
Establishment	3,807,916	3,710,789
Other Expenses	<u>1,977,814</u>	<u>1,564,275</u>
	<u>19,792,894</u>	<u>23,174,762</u>

(a) Departments

Departments	Year ended 31.03.2013	Year ended 31.03.2014
	Rs.	Rs.
Bhojanasala and		
Leadbeater Chambers	566,893	776,637
Garden	1,552,055	1,889,481
Maintenance	<u>5,996,497</u>	<u>8,289,025</u>
	<u>8,115,445</u>	<u>10,955,143</u>

In respect of Bhojanasala and Leadbeater Chambers the general increase in expenditure is mainly on account of expenditure on provisions, vegetables, milk and establishment in Leadbeater chambers and Bhojanasala.

In Garden Department the deficit has increased by Rs.337,426/-. The increase in deficit is on account of the increase in the daily wages of the contractual labour with effect from 1st August 2013.

The net expenditure of the Maintenance department shows an increase of Rs.2,292,528/-, from Rs.5,996,497/- to Rs.8,289,025/-. There has been significant increase in major repairs to the Roads by Rs.1,987,580/-, electrical installation by Rs.302,448/- and expenditure on clean water supply for desilting of wells by Rs.920,109/-.

(b) Charitable Work

The amount spent on charitable work is Rs.3,376,431/-, as against Rs.3,111,820/- during last year. These has been increased allotment to Education and welfare grants. An amount of Rs.100,000/- was sent to prime minister's relief fund for disaster relief in Uttarakhand.

(c) Propagation of Theosophy

The expenditure on Propagation of Theosophy for the year was as follows:

		Year ended 31.03.2013 Rs.	Year ended 31.03.2014 Rs.
Adyar Library and Research Centre	(Net)	583,437	1,156,827
<i>The Theosophist</i> and <i>Adyar Newsletter</i>	"	116,401	53,286
Vasanta Press	"	252,376	275,768
School of the Wisdom	(Gross)	47,075	74,840
Book Gifts	"	57,542	65,410
Convention and Seminars	"	808,845	966,207
Others		<u>4,731</u>	<u>15,291</u>
		<u>1,870,407</u>	<u>2,607,629</u>

The increased Expenditure in Adyar Library and Research centre to the tune of Rs.573,390/- is on account of reprinting of no. of out of stock and new books. In case of TPH receipt for subscription to *Theosophist* and *Adyar News* letter has increased from Rs.428,010/- to Rs.631,890/-.

(d) Other Costs:

The expenses in international offices, and other establishments are as follows:

	Year ended 31.03.2013 Rs.	Year ended 31.03.2014 Rs.
International offices	909,492	960,495
Establishment	<u>3,807,916</u>	<u>3,710,789</u>
	<u>4,717,408</u>	<u>4,671,284</u>

This signifies that the expenditure on the above are kept in control.

3. Net Surplus:

The excess of Income over expenditure Rs.805,182/- after transferring/appropriating to Rs.2,000,000/- (Twenty lakhs) for the Education Endowment Fund. This is felt necessary and appropriate as the Olcott High School has become a Higher Secondary School with the opening up 11th & 12th standard and needs more facilities, Nutrition, Teachers, and other

Education related expenditure. The surplus for the previous year after transfer to Building Maintenance fund Rs.3,000,000/- is Rs.1,165,958/-

4. Capital Expenditure:

During the year an expenditure of an amount of Rs.2,678,512/- has been incurred on acquiring capital assets. The assets include cost of replacement of the hydraulic lift in LBC and other essential assets required for the different departments.

5. Funds & Investments:

During the year Adyar Besant Commemorative Endowment Fund rose from Rs.85,118,688/- to Rs.86,297,161/- an increase of Rs.1,178,473/-. The other funds rose from Rs.142,357,307/- to Rs.150,013,121/- an increase Rs.7,655,814/- after utilization from funds wherever applicable. The investments during the year amount to Rs.265,259,417/-, an increase of Rs.9,371,709/- over the previous year investment of Rs.255,887,708/-.

6. Acknowledgement:

On behalf of the Society, I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the continued support of members throughout the world.

Chennai

Date: 15-10-2014

T.S. JAMBUNATHAN

Honorary Treasurer

FEES AND DUES RECEIVED

From 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 (in Rupees)

	Name of Section etc.	2012-2013	2013-2014
The Theosophical Society in:	Africa, East and Central	—	18408
	Africa, South	—	7067
	Africa, Central	—	—
	Africa, West	—	—
	Argentina and Paraguay	156866	—
	Asia, East and South-East	—	—
	— Japan	18113	19112
	— Malaysia	18869	—
	— Singapore	—	—
	Australia	—	699481
	Austria	—	—
	Bangladesh	—	—
	Belgium	—	92251
	Bolivia	27930	28881
	Brazil	710649	—
	Canada	53547	28053
	Costa Rica	44092	—
	Chile	—	—
	Colombia	—	—
	Cuba	—	—
	Dominican Republic	10444	—
	England	430122	—
	Finland	106267	129370
	France	80249	90597
	Germany	44200	52682
	Greece	—	—
	Hungary	—	—
	Iceland	—	—
	India	136740	146700
	Indonesia	—	12050
	Italy	159233	164466

Ireland	12510	10999
Ivory Coast	—	—
Israel	—	58418
Kenya	2360	—
Mexico	18869	—
Netherlands, The	329	502
New Zealand	32517	—
Norway	—	5000
Pakistan	—	—
Peru	9889	17506
Philippines, The	—	—
Portugal	—	—
Puerto Rico	13880	25379
Russia	74396	113064
Scotland	—	—
Slovenia	13475	15077
Spain	101486	—
Sri Lanka	—	—
Sweden	—	—
Switzerland	35057	30119
Togo	—	—
Ukraine	29364	—
Uruguay	—	—
USA	607968	716946
Wales	—	21075
Venezuela	—	—

Lodges attached to Adyar:

Croatia	12360	10042
Equador	—	—
France (2 Lodges)	—	—
Israel	42155	—
Orlando	6181	8645
Qatar	30000	—
Fellows-at-large	9394	15553

3030642	2537443
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This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report.

For SRIHARI & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

CHENNAI
Date: 26 Sep. 2014

E. S. NEELAKANTAN
Partner

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

AT 31ST MARCH 2014

As at 31-3-2013	ASSETS	Schedule No.	As at 31-3-2014	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
1,17,81,617	Fixed Assets	1		1,31,80,133
	Investments: (At cost)	2		
25,58,87,708	In Scheduled Banks and Financial Institutions			26,52,59,417
	Current Assets, Loans and Advances:			
85,62,177	Stocks	3	87,44,333	
12,61,443	Sundry Debtors		8,73,358	
82,42,574	Cash and Bank Balances	4	70,90,227	
9,97,290	Loans and Advances	5	16,11,232	
1,90,63,484				1,83,19,150
28,67,32,809				29,67,58,700

Schedule Numbers 1 to 7 and Notes on Accounts form part of the Balance Sheet.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

T. S. JAMBUNATHAN
Hon. Treasurer

**THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

Year ended 31-3-2013	EXPENDITURE	Year ended 31-3-2014	
		Rs.	Rs.
	Departments: (Net Expenditure)		
5,66,893	Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	7,76,637	
15,52,055	Garden	18,89,481	
59,96,497	Maintenance	82,89,025	
81,15,445			1,09,55,143
	Charitable Work:		
10,14,526	Animal Welfare	8,26,514	
14,40,000	Education	18,12,000	
60,370	Welfare Grants	1,11,220	
2,44,205	Free Dispensary and Medical Aid	2,32,064	
81,500	School Fees and Books	87,500	
97,619	Social Welfare Work	60,133	
1,70,000	HPB Hostel	1,44,000	
—	Theosophical Order of service	1,00,000	
3,600	Others	3,000	
31,11,820			33,76,431
	Propagation of Theosophy:		
5,83,437	Adyar Library and Research Centre (Net)	11,56,827	
1,16,401	<i>The Theosophist</i> and <i>Adyar Newsletter</i> "	53,286	
—	Archives and Museum "	13,109	
4,731	Theosophy-Science Centre "	2,182	
2,52,376	Vasanta Press	2,75,768	
9,56,945		15,01,172	
47,075	School of the Wisdom (Gross)	74,840	
57,542	Book Gift "	65,410	
8,08,845	Convention & Seminars "	9,66,207	
9,13,462		11,06,457	
18,70,407			26,07,629
	International Offices:		
75,171	President and Vice-President	66,807	
5,55,208	Treasurer	6,24,055	
2,79,113	Secretary	2,69,633	
9,09,492			9,60,495
	Establishment:		
2,49,775	Headquarters	2,15,858	
1,35,482	General Manager's Office	1,99,634	
5,53,077	Housekeeping	5,95,863	
4,24,280	Sanitation	3,81,946	
24,45,302	Security	23,17,488	
38,07,916			37,10,789
1,78,15,080	c / f		2,16,10,487

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2014

27

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31-3-2013	EXPENDITURE - Contd	Year ended 31-3-2014	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
1,78,15,080	b/f		2,16,10,487
	Other Expenses:		
9,166	Insurance	8,776	
55,000	Legal and Court Expenses	25,000	
99,410	Audit Fees	1,09,046	
8,38,586	Rates and Taxes	89,698	
2,389	Bank Charges	3,045	
5,89,351	Depreciation	7,36,669	
45,187	Motor Car Expenses	24,638	
69,582	Miscellaneous	3,34,943	
2,69,143	Provision for Gratuity	2,32,460	
19,77,814			15,64,275
1,97,92,894			2,31,74,762
	Less: Transfer from other Funds		
10,25,000	Adyar Estate Improvement Fund		
59,000	Security	59,000	
4,09,000	Garden	3,90,000	
	Charitable Work:		
10,14,526	Animal Welfare	8,26,514	
14,40,000	Education	18,12,000	
97,619	Social Welfare Work	60,133	
1,70,000	HPB Hostel	1,44,000	
—	Theosophical Order of Service	1,00,000	
	Propagation of Theosophy:		
5,83,437	Adyar Library and Research Centre	11,56,827	
47,075	School of the Wisdom	74,840	
57,542	Book Gift	65,410	
8,08,845	Convention & Seminars	9,66,207	
57,12,044			56,54,931
1,40,80,850			1,75,19,831
30,00,000	Transferred to Adyar Estate Improvement Fund		—
1,70,80,850			1,75,19,831
—	Transferred to Education Endowment Fund		20,00,000
			1,95,19,831
11,65,958	Surplus transferred to General Fund		8,05,182
1,82,46,808			2,03,25,013

This is the Income and Expenditure Account referred to in our report of even date.

For SRIHARI & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

CHENNAI
Date: 26 Sep 2014

E. S. NEELAKANTAN
Partner

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2013

Year ended 31-3-2012	INCOME - <i>Contd.</i>	Year ended 31-3-2013
Rs. 1,82,46,808	b/f	Rs. 2,03,25,013
1,82,46,808		2,03,25,013

Notes on Accounts form part of these Accounts.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

T. S. JAMBUNATHAN
Hon. Treasurer

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31-3-2016

(Rupees in Thousands)

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
	Budget 13-14	Actuals 14-15	Budget 15-16		Budget 13-14	Actuals 14-15	Budget 15-16
Departments (Net Expenditure)				Propagation of Theosophy			
Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	777	586	1,304	Theosophical Publishing House	1,092	661	790
Garden	1,889	2,020	2,375	General Donations	1,533	300	100
Maintenance	8,289	9,655	9,154	Interest (Net)	15,017	15,000	16,000
Utilization from Other Funds	-390	-2,000	-3,000	Membership Fees and Dues	2,537	3,000	3,000
Charitable Work				Licence Fees	144	72	-
Animal Welfare	826	2,000	2,000	Miscellaneous Receipts	2	20	10
Education	1,812	2,500	2,500				
Welfare Grants	111	100	200				
Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	232	250	300				
School Fees and Books	87	150	200				
Social Welfare Work	60	200	150				
HPB Hostel	144	150	150				
TOS	100	-	-				
Others	3	10	2				
Utilization from Other Funds	-2,943	-4,850	-4,800				
Propagation of Theosophy							
Adyar Library and Research Centre	1,157	911	1,504				
<i>The Theosophist</i> and <i>Adyar Newsletter</i>	53	133	36				
Vasanta Press	276	553	331				
Information and Public Relations		5	10				
Archives and Museum	13	10	1				
Theosophy-Science Centre	2	30	300				
School of the Wisdom	75	50	100				
Book Gift	65	500	50				
Convention & Seminars	966	800	1,000				
Utilization from Other Funds	-2,263	-2,261	-2,654				
International Offices							
President and Vice-President	67	75	100				
Treasurer	624	600	700				
Secretary	270	400	400				
Establishment							
Headquarters	216	300	300				
General Manager's Office	200	200	200				
Housekeeping	596	600	700				
Sanitation	382	500	500				
Security	2,317	3,000	4,000				
Utilization from Other Funds	-59	-50	-				
Other Expenses							
Insurance Premiums	9	10	10				
Legal Expenses	26	60	80				
Audit Fees	109	150	150				
Rates and Taxes	90	300	200				
Bank Charges	3	5	5				
Depreciation	737	600	600				
Motor Car Maintenance	25	60	60				
Miscellaneous	335	70	150				
Provision for Gratuity	232	300	300				
Transferred to Education Endowment Fund	2,000	-	-				
Excess of Income over Expenditure	805	371	232				
	20,325	19,053	19,900		20,325	19,053	19,900

OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 2014

Executive Committee:

1.	Mr Tim Boyd	<i>President</i>
2.	Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy	<i>Vice-President</i>
3.	Ms Marja Artamaa	<i>Secretary</i>
4.	Mr T. S. Jambunathan	<i>Treasurer</i>
5.	Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>General Council Member</i>
6.	Mr S. Sundaram	<i>General Council Member</i>
7.	Miss Keshwar Dastur	<i>Member</i>
8.	Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	<i>Member</i>
9.	Prof. C. A. Shinde	<i>Member</i>
10.	Mr K. Narasimha Rao	<i>Member</i>

General Manager

Mr S. Harihara Raghavan

Adyar Library*Director (Sanskrit Studies)*

Dr T. Narayankutty

Librarian

Prof. C. A. Shinde

Bhojanasala*Superintendent*

Mrs Usha Umakanth Rao

Garden*Superintendent*

Mr S. A. Sanghram

Housekeeping*Superintendent*

Mr S. M. Amarnath Rao

Information**Leadbeater Chambers***Asst. Superintendent*

Mrs Veena Ramachandran

Maintenance*Superintendent*

Mr M. Dharmalingam

Medical Service*Doctors*

Dr S. D. Inbaraj & Dr R. Revathy

Museum and Archives**Sanitation** *In-charge (temporary)*

Mr S. M. Amarnath Rao

School of the Wisdom *Director*

Prof. R. C. Tampi

Security *Superintendent*

Mr J. Suresh

Theosophical Publishing House*Acting Manager*

Mr S. M. Umakanth Rao

Vasanta Press*Manager*

Mr V. Gopalan (since 18.4.2014)

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Chairman

Mr Tim Boyd

Secretary

Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy

Treasurer

Mr T. S. Jambunathan

Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary

*School**Headmistress*

Ms B. Lakshmi

Social Welfare Centre

Manager

Mrs R. Mythili

Vocational Training Centre

Director

Mr S. Ramkumar

Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary

Doctor

Dr J. Samuel Jeyachandran (since 30.8.2014)

HPB Hostel

Warden

Mrs Vijaya Ravindran

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 2014

National Societies and Sections	26
Regional Associations	13
Presidential Agencies	13
Lodges Attached to Adyar	7
Total Lodges	982
Total Centres	171
Total Membership 2013	26,839
Total Membership 2014	26,497

Section/Area	Number of		
	Lodges	Centres	Members
1. Africa, East and Central	5	-	162
2. Africa, South	6	1	209
3. Africa, West	11	6	245
4. America, Central	2	17	17
5. Argentina (and Paraguay)	19	8	352
6. Asia, South East	4	-	547
7. Australia	11	5	921
8. Austria	3	-	49
9. Bangladesh	5	-	188
10. Belgium	7	-	91
11. Bolivia	11	2	118
12. Brazil	33	18	768
13. Canada	4	7	171
14. Chile	3	-	52
15. Colombia	6	2	41
16. Costa Rica	5	-	66
17. Cuba	12	-	561
18. Dominican Rep.	2	-	34
19. England	34	6	1,068
20. Finland	23	2	413
21. France	22	2	368
22. Germany	7	1	112
23. Greece	11	2	215
24. Hungary	3	-	40
25. Iceland	9	-	399
26. India	462	-	11,327
27. Indonesia	14	-	190

Section/Area	Number of		
	Lodges	Centres	Members
28. Ireland	2	2	72
29. Italy	64	-	1,008
30. Ivory Coast	3	-	22
31. Mexico	12	4	159
32. Netherlands	10	7	347
33. New Zealand	13	4	704
34. Norway	2	-	15
35. Pakistan	NA	NA	NA
36. Peru	2	-	29
37. Philippines	17	10	304
38. Portugal	11	-	127
39. Puerto Rico	3	-	138
40. Russia	7	-	147
41. Scotland	3	1	120
42. Slovenia	4	-	55
43. Spain	13	7	328
44. Sri Lanka	3	3	182
45. Sweden	7	1	171
46. Switzerland	5	-	30
47. Togo	3	3	26
48. Ukraine	5	2	89
49. USA	39	47	3,378
50. Uruguay	5	-	54
51. Venezuela	2	-	15
52. Wales	4	1	72
Total	975	171	26,333

Lodges/Members Attached to Adyar

	Number of		
	Lodges	Centres	Members
1. Arc de Ciel and Ananda	2	-	30
2. El Sol Lodge, Ecuador	1	-	12
3. Covenant Lodge, Israel	1	-	75
4. Lotus Lodge, Croatia	1	-	17
5. Orlando Lodge, USA	1	-	14
6. Blavatsky Lodge, Qatar	1	-	9
7. Fellows-at-Large	-	-	7
Total	982	-	26,497

Note: For Argentina, Canada, Dominican Republic, Ivory Coast and El Sol Lodge previous year's data have been repeated in the absence of fresh data.

THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

Publications of The Theosophical Publishing House (TPH) continues to attract the members and general public, which has contributed to the sales turn-over around 2 million rupees over the years. The sales for the current year (April 2013 to March 2014) was 2.1 million rupees, a little less than the previous year's sales of 2.3 million rupees.

The overall financial performance has been good. There has been good recovery of royalty dues. Thereby the gross profit for the current year is more or less the same as in the previous year, though the sales for the current year dipped slightly.

Subscriptions to the two Journals, *The Theosophist* and the *Adyar Newsletter*, increased from 0.4 million in the previous year to 0.6 million in the current year.

However there is a deficit of Rs.53,000/- compared to the previous years' deficit of Rs.116,000/- on account of increase in cost of printing and postage.

Subscriptions to *The Theosophical Digest* has drastically come down to 66. Renewal is not forthcoming on account of the irregularity in the printing of the quarterly Digest.

The online bookstore www.adyarbooks.com continues to get orders regularly. Subscriptions to our two magazines are also received through this online bookstore.

For the period from October 2013 to September 2014 eight reprints were brought out.

Mr S. M. Umakanth Rao
Acting Manager

THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

Col. H.S. Olcott established the Adyar Library and Research Centre (ALRC) in 1886 with the main aim of reviving the study of Oriental literature, philosophy, and religion, and encouraging genuine scholars in Indian studies. The ALRC, which was earlier known as Adyar Library, began its work by bringing out modest publications on Indian philosophy and religions. Later this developed into a fine series of publications bringing to the Western world knowledge of Sanskrit and other Eastern literature. The Centre is functioning under the guidance of the International President of the Theosophical Society.

We condole and make note of the passing away of our chairman Dr Radha Burnier on 31st October 2013. We are grateful for her dedicated service to the Adyar Library and Research Centre. From 1954-59 she was the Assistant Director, from 1959-1980 the Director of this Indological prestigious institution. As the Director, she was the editor of the Library's Research journal *Brahmavidya* and supervised its publications. She also translated a few Sanskrit works, such as the *Hatha-yoga-pradipik*, a well-known manual on Hatha Yoga, and the chapter on dance in the *Samgitaratn kara*, a classic work on music and dance. She

continued to be on the editorial board of the Library's journal on Indology.

It has been decided to publish the next combined issue of *Brahmavidya* vols. 78-79 (2014-15), as a commemoration volume of Dr Radha Burnier.

We all condole and make note of the passing of Dr S. Srinivasa Sankaranarayanan on 19 September 2014. Since 1986-2010 he was Hon. Prof. in the ALRC. The title *Vedas strātṇkara* has been conferred on him by Sri Paramacarya, Kanchi Kamakoti Pitham (1984). To his credit he has some 100 published research papers on different Indological and Philosophical topics and 9 books in Sanskrit and English. We are grateful for his dedicated service to the Adyar Library and Research Centre.

The present editorial board includes following eminent persons for our journal *Brahmavidya*†

1. Mr Tim Boyd — Chairman
2. Dr Narayanan Kutty
3. Prof. Christian Lindtner
4. Mr Subhash Kak
5. Mr N. Kazanas
6. Dr K. N. Neelakantan
7. Dr S. Ramaratnam
8. Dr G. Gangadharan Nair

Mr Tim Boyd is the 8th International President from 2014. Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy worked as the Director of the Adyar Library and Research Centre for six months. Prof. C. A. Shinde has been the Librarian from October 2006 and Dr K. N. Neelakantan Elayath worked as the Director (Sanskrit Studies) after the retirement of Dr S. Sankaranarayanan.

Mr S. Harihara Raghavan held additional charge of the Director in his absence. Dr T. Narayanan Kutty has been appointed as the Director from April 2014. He was a Professor in Sanskrit with specialization in Advaita Vedānta. He has many publications to his credit.

I. Publications and Reprints

1. *Brahmavidya*, the Adyar Library Bulletin Volume, 76-77/2012-13.

2. Alphabetical Catalogue of the Adyar Library Publications.

3. Introductory Booklet on the Adyar Library and Research Centre.

4. Supplement to *Brahmavidya*, commemorating the 125th year of *The Secret Doctrine* by H. P. Blavatsky — released during 2013 Annual Convention.

5. *The Saiva Upanisad-s*, English translation based on the commentary of Upanisad Brahmayogin by T. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar (ALS 85).

6. *Vishnusahasranāma* English translation by Ananthakrishna Sastry (ALGS 8).

7. *Amarakosa* (vols. I and II) with rare South Indian commentaries (ALS 101).

II. Reprints taken

1. *Samgītaratnākara*, vol. II, ALS 43

2. *Samgītaratnākara*, vol. IV, ALS 86

3. *Samgītaratnākara*, vol. IV (Translation), ALS 108

III. Acquisition and Cataloguing

During the year under report, 122 books were purchased and 1,000 books were accessed, 150 books were catalogued and added to the Library collection.

We received 1,237 books from various

sources as gifts. Most of these were from the President's Office, the TPH, Secretary's Office, TPH Wheaton, and the Rashtriya Sanskrit Samsthan. Dr Radha Burnier's own collection of books along with cupboards are kept for reading in a special room in the Library.

IV. Service Rendered

During the year under report 34,530 frames of photocopies were taken, including transcripts and rare books. The Library was used by 1,300 readers and 750 borrowers who consulted 4,860 books, and borrowed 746 books including 60 rare books and 380 manuscripts.

VI. Conservation and Preservation

550 hard cover books were repaired, 50 were bound, 30 photocopied and 285 soft cover books were repaired.

VII. Catalogue Section

3000 books were catalogued and entered, 3000 books were checked.

VIII. Scholars

75 Scholars from various Universities used the Library.

IX. Visitors

1,750 and 2,020 persons visited the Display Room and Reading Room respectively.

Prof. C. A. Shinde
Librarian

THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

The School of the Wisdom aims at bringing each student to survey things 'from the centre' which is intuitive awareness. An intense sense of Life must always accompany every true student. There can be no wisdom without an ever-increasing sense of Wonder.

The School of the Wisdom conducted four courses in 2014, as follows:

1. 'Shiva, the Creative Energy of Transformation' directed by Dr Ravi Ravindra, from 8 January to 31 January 2014;

2. 'The Voice of the Silence' by Prof. R. C. Tampi, from 3 to 14 November 2014;

3. 'The Psychology of Yoga' by Mr P. K. Jayaswal, from 17 to 28 November 2013; and

4. 'Self-Transformation and the Spiritual Life' by Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr., from 1 to 12 December 2014.

Prof. R. C. Tampi
Director, The School of the Wisdom

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

(No report)

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

The Olcott Education Society (OES) continued to function as a separately registered society under the Chairmanship of the President of the Theosophical Society (TS). During the year, the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary has been made a separate department of the TS for its better functioning with the approval of the OES Board and the Executive Committee of the TS. Now the OES is able to fully concentrate on educational work through its five units. Several OES Board members actively supported the work of the OES throughout the year and all the unit heads admirably managed the work in their respective units despite many constraints. Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) International has sent out an appeal this year for donations to add to the OES corpus.

Olcott Memorial High School

The Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School (OMHSS) continued to provide free education as it has done in the last 120 years since its inception as a primary school in 1894. The school had 291 boys and 196 girls this year. 32 students of class XII will take the HSC Board exams in March 2015 for the first time with commerce stream (Commerce, Accountancy, Economics and Computer Science subjects). Two subject-streams — Commerce and Arts (Economics, History, Geography and Computer Science) were offered in class XI this year and 55 students joined these two groups. Forty of our own SSLC (class X) pass-out students continued into Higher Secondary

classes. Nineteen new students were admitted to class I. Some students from other schools also joined OMHSS.

An international donor agency helped to set up an advanced computer lab with LAN, internet facilities and qualified teachers to run computer courses. Two other international Foundation/NGOs helped augment teacher salaries, school running expenses and material purchases. A neighbourhood school in Gandhinagar, through its trust, continued to provide two qualified teachers and the noon meal supplements besides new furniture and furniture repairs. More than 60 regular donors who have been supporting the school through regular monthly and yearly contributions continued to unstintingly support the expenses of the school. Some donors also contributed to the corpus. The school celebrated the Republic Day on 26 January 2014 with Mr Harihara Raghavan as the chief guest. The Independence Day was celebrated on 15 August 2014 with Mr P. M. Belliappa, former IAS Officer, hoisting the flag and thereafter, the first two students, Uma and Viwanatahan, who topped the Class X SSLC exams were awarded cash prizes of Rs. 5000/- each from the specially created Mrs Chandra Thirumalai and Ms Anuthama Mohan endowments. This year 50 students appeared for the Class X SSLC exams and 48 cleared the same. The donor agencies from the USA continued to send their Indian representatives to visit the

school this academic year. They were looking at supporting the school through their Indian offices. Some playpen materials were received as donation much to the delight of the students. The students and the school awarded prizes under the head 'Paryavaran Mitra' meaning 'Friends of the environment'. Cultural, art and craft events at school and inter school levels and eco club activities were regularly carried out. This year the rain-water harvesting work was completed as per norms.

The school sports teams continued their good participation in inter-school events. The girls' handball junior and senior teams won the zonal level tournaments and were eligible for the district level participation, while the boys' teams were in the runners-up category. The Kho-kho, football, volleyball and Kabbadi teams of boys and girls were doing well. The school team for Rugby continued to play competitive games. Ultimate frisbee caught on as a new game amongst boys and girls. Hockey was introduced by one of the Maths teachers who is a good player himself. Dr R. Revathy frequently visited the school for health check-ups of the children.

Social Welfare Centre

The Social Welfare Centre (SWC) runs a day-care centre cum nursery school for children of working parents from low income groups. This year it took care of 60 children who were provided with nutritious food, milk and fruits. They were also taught colouring, numbers, alphabets, rhymes, songs and dance.

Several festivals and days of national importance were celebrated in which the children took part with great enthusiasm. They were also taken for visits to parks and zoos outside.

Dr R. Revathy visited the centre regularly for conducting health check-ups and also provided guidance to parents on health care for the children. Ms Marja Artamaa, General Secretary of the Theosophical Society in Finland, was the chief guest at the cultural show by SWC and VTC (Vocational Training Centre) students on 27 December 2013. She gave away the certificates to the successful VTC students. Mrs Ritva Lappi from Finland, hoisted the National flag and delivered the Republic Day message to the SWC children on 26 January 2014. Mr P. M. Belliappa, former IAS officer, hoisted the National flag and spoke to the children on 15 August 2014.

Vocational Training Centre

The Vocational Training Centre had twenty two students who were taught weaving, tailoring and embroidery for a one-year certificate course from January till December. Successful candidates will be receiving certificates during the International Convention in December 2014 – January 2015. Educational trips, workshops, national and cultural festivals and talent promotion were conducted on a regular basis. Courses on acupressure, organic farming, health care, and computer awareness were conducted this year and have become very popular.

Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the

Theosophical Society and the Unnati Foundation, Bangalore. Under the same, Unnati and OES will conduct joint vocational training programs of 70 days' duration for unemployed youth in the age group of 18-30. The training is held in the new vocational training centre, in Damodar Gardens. The OES provides the infra-structure and Unnati provides trainers, training material and also co-ordinates securing jobs for each of the participants. Training for the first batch of 4 boys and 4 girls started on first August 2014, and on completion of the training all eight were given placements in reputed companies in October 2014. In this batch of eight, 2 were from Olcott Memorial School. It is hoped that many students studying in the higher secondary section in our school will take advantage of the newly introduced vocational training program. Once residential accommodation is made available, many more students will come from outside Chennai to avail of this facility.

HPB Hostel

HPB Hostel accommodated twelve boys from class V to class XII. The boys

follow a daily routine that includes morning and evening prayers, meditation and completion of school homework. Nutritious food is given to the boys and periodical medical check-ups are done. During the holidays, a plastic removal campaign is undertaken inside the campus to create awareness of a pollution-free environment. There is a need for starting a similar hostel for girls from poorer families having no facility to study at home.

Visitors Centre

The OES operates a Visitors Centre for the TS in the Social Welfare Centre premises. The centre has over 300 theosophical books, a number of theosophical magazines, information booklets on TS, Theosophy, and OES, and over 50 beautiful photographs of flowers, trees, birds, and buildings from the TS campus. The Centre was visited by many during the year. There is a need to put up the Centre on the main road itself and keep it open for longer hours.

Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy

Secretary, Olcott Education Society

BESANT MEMORIAL ANIMAL DISPENSARY

The Animal Dispensary, which was functioning under the OES (Olcott Education Society), has been brought under the TS Administration from April 2014. A new Animal Welfare Committee has been formed with Mr Anoop Jaiswal as its Chairperson, Dr Geetha Jaikumar as its Secretary, and Mr Sangham as its

Member. There were two changes of veterinary doctors during the year, and now a third one has taken charge.

An Autoclave has been purchased to facilitate animal birth control procedures. The van for use in the outcoach programmes has been repaired and will be used to carry out treatment of animals

in and around Chennai. The entire Dispensary will be renovated for which sanction has been accorded.

There were a total of 3,226 cases attended this year which includes cases of:

♦ Animal Birth Control –	63
♦ Dogs Vaccinated –	551

♦ Cats Vaccinated –	23
♦ Surgical Wound Management –	227
♦ General Wound Management –	827
♦ Fractures –	19

Mr S. A. Sanghram
Manager, BMAD

BESANT SCOUT CAMPING CENTRE

Twenty-two institutions and scout groups, with around 1,200 children, used the services of the Besant Scout Camping Centre for their camping activities under the guidance of theosophical values.

Mr A. Victor Frank
Besant Scout Camping Centre

THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE

Unquestionably, the most important event of this year was the passing to higher service on 31 October 2013 of the International President of our Order, Mrs Radha Burnier. During her 33 years as our President, Mrs Burnier strived to help the Order realize its potential. She was aware of the contribution of the TOS to the community outreach of the Theosophical Society and its role in drawing people to examine theosophical teachings of which they otherwise might never have heard. She supported the TOS as a focal point and group context where TS members and friends can work along self-selected lines of service. She never failed to encourage the TOS in its work of showing how Theosophy can be of transformative value.

During her presidency, Radha taught us that a deep caring for the state of the

world and a commitment to making it a healthy stage for human evolution through service are as central to the spiritual path as study and meditation. As her courageous and thought-provoking commentaries in the *On the Watch-Tower* column of *The Theosophist* over the decades have demonstrated, she was greatly concerned about the ethical problems posed by science, the effects of corporate greed and personal selfishness on the environment, the exploitation of the masses by international conglomerates, the oppression of women, the injustice caused by caste and class systems, political and economic corruption and the abuse of animals, amongst many other issues. Her commentaries have inspired a number of the TOS's reform projects over the years, especially in the area of animal protection.

Mrs Burnier undertook a great deal of service work herself, with personal care, generosity and attention to detail. Six weeks after her passing the TOS published a special 20-page e-newsletter researched and edited by Mrs Ananya Sri Ram Rajan, as a tribute to our President's outstanding humanitarian and social reform work. We are deeply grateful to Mrs Burnier.

In April we were happy to welcome Mr Tim Boyd as the new International President of the TOS. Tim has extensive experience in service both within and outside the TOS. He worked for 25 years with troubled youth in the Chicago area before becoming President of the TOS in America from 2007 to 2011. In one of his first statements about the TOS from the international platform this year, he commented on the partnership of the TS and TOS thus: 'Theosophical study, meditation, and service are part of the recommended lifestyle and everything that can be done to strengthen service work is to be encouraged. Keeping in mind that we have many different temperaments in the TS and that the approach towards service can therefore be interpreted in different ways, it is a fine thing for the TOS to function fully within the TS.' We look forward to many happy years of work under Tim's inspiration.

Some highlights of the year's activities at national and local level:

Participants at the July 2013 International Workers' Conference have been working on the priority actions which they identi-

fied for service in their own countries. There seems to be a focus on making known the opportunity to join the TOS's activities and to benefit from its resources. Articles and reports have appeared increasingly in TS magazines this year and more presentations on the work of the TOS are being made at TS branches and conventions.

Mr Mahendra and Mrs Shashi Singhal visited the TS in Ukraine last year and mentioned the work of the TOS. In mid-November, it was decided by the members to unite under the name of the TOS the humanitarian service work already taking place in the Lodges in Kiev, Yalta, Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk and Kirovograd. A page for the TOS was created on the Ukraine TS's website and a blog was set up with detailed accounts of the projects undertaken. In addition to the service projects already engaged in, the members in Kiev have rallied in support of a camp set up for both Ukrainian and Russian Ukrainian refugee families displaced by military skirmishes in the east of the country. They are collecting and delivering all kinds of goods. The TOS in France knitted 170 teddies for the children in the camp, which were presented to them lovingly by the Kiev members.

The TOS in Italy is also supporting families displaced by war. It is dispatching many boxes of goods to help with the relief work at the Syrian refugee camp of Bab al Salam. There are four million displaced people in Syria at this time.

In addition to ongoing emphasis on schooling and vocational training for

young girls through the TOS's many hundreds of educational sponsorships, one of our international priorities this year has been to continue the work against gender discrimination and violence towards women. Dr Deepa Padhi increased the breadth of her multi-faceted programme in Odisha State, India, with the enthusiastic support of the TOS in the USA, Canada, Italy, Australia and New Zealand. Billboards have been put up around the city of Bhubaneswar, in both English and the local language, Oriya, carrying slogans such as 'From womb to tomb, woman is being abused. Empower women, empower humanity'. The city mayor joined in the campaign, paying for and inaugurating a billboard. Workshops have been offered this year to different segments of society, drawing wide media coverage. One of the themes, 'Learning the art of empowering the victims of domestic violence' attracted 30 counsellors from around Odisha, along with researchers from Utkal University. In April, the National Secretary of the TOS in India, Mr T. K. Nair, visited a home for destitute, abused, and mentally ill women and made a significant donation on behalf of the TOS Mahabharat Group for the welfare of the 200 residents. Dr Padhi was invited by the State Women's Commission to participate in a policy making workshop on the protection of women in Odisha. The commission praised the installation of the TOS billboards for their impact and gave the TOS permission to add its helpline number to the billboards, which

is of immense practical aid to women and female children.

This year, in celebration of the designation of the Olcott School as a 'Higher Secondary School' through the addition of classes at 11th and 12th year levels, the TOS made an effort to gather additional donations for the Olcott Education Society that runs the school and three other educational projects on TS land in and around the TS Headquarters in Adyar. At the Congress of the TS in Europe held in Paris mid-year, the TOS in Italy raised money for the school through a crafts sale table.

In November, donations flowed from all over the theosophical world to the TOS in the Philippines to help it in its substantial relief work following the super-cyclone that hit parts of Southeast Asia early in the month. TS and TOS members did outstanding work in collaboration with government officials and companies, sending many containers of building materials, tools, staple food, water, blankets and clothing to the homeless citizens of the three provinces affected: Iloilo, Leyte and Samar. Members were able to help with local distribution. Some of them lost their own homes and were taken care of by their fellow members.

Our TOS Spanish language coordinator, Mr Fernando Perez Martin has started a Spanish language electronic newsletter. This year he also published two issues of the TOS's newsletter in support of the service and peace work of the United Nations. This makes a total

of 32 issues. In May, Fernando organized a particularly successful seminar in Madrid on the theme 'The Devic Kingdom and the TOS', attended by the TS General Secretary and Treasurer.

The TOS in several groups in Australia is engaging in increasingly diversified and successful fundraising activities: art exhibits, cinema outings, lunches, concerts and so on. The TOS in Australia donates substantially to the home schools run by the TOS in Karachi to reach children who otherwise would not receive an education, particularly girls. These fundraising events are a great help in this regard.

The TOS in France organized a particularly successful seminar in May on the light that humour can shed on the spiritual path and on service work. The packets of material handed out continue to sell well, months after the event, raising funds for the TOS projects. One of these consists of financial support for a school in the Democratic Republic of Congo run efficiently and wisely by the Liberal Catholic Church in Kinshasa. The TOS has also collaborated with the church in Paris in a series of lectures on vegetarianism, drawing large audiences.

Ms Diana Dunningham Chapotin
International Secretary, TOS

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

REPORTS OF WORK

IN

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

(Where necessary, reports have been translated, edited or condensed)

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

Founded 1947, membership 162. The **East and Central African Section** is comprised of four countries (referred by them as Regions of the Section): Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia. (Currently the Uganda Region falls administratively under the Kenya Region.) The Section has 5 Lodges. 'Mufulira' and 'Kitwe' in Zambia had study or research meetings weekly. Kitwe Lodge has also hosted a committee to reorganize the TS administration and work in the Zambia Region. A joint seminar under the theme 'Theosophy In The 21st Century' was organized to commemorate the foundation dates. The largest Lodge is 'Nairobi' in Kenya, which held 31 meetings in Gujarati, 19 in English, 9 joint meetings, and a workshop on Karma. The Section Book-stall was handed over to Nairobi, which

has hosted it for years. This Lodge is also involved in various TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) activities, including donations of lamps, water tanks, medical assistance to the needy, and tree-planting. Mufulira Lodge in Zambia and Dar-es-Salaam Lodge in Tanzania have also been involved in various TOS activities during the year. Dar-es-Salaam Lodge in Tanzania held 10 study meetings, the Ladies' Meeting twice weekly, and there were regular healing meetings and Bharat Samaj Puja. Nile Lodge in Uganda held two meetings every month to discuss articles from *The Theosophist* or other theosophical books and topics. All the Lodges celebrated their foundation day and international theosophical days.

Mr Ebrony Peteli
General Secretary

AFRICA, SOUTH

Founded 1909, membership 209. No report was received from the **South African Section**. The General Secretary emailed that the report was sent by post,

but since there has been a few months' strike, it probably has been lost.

Mr Jack Hartmann
General Secretary

AFRICA, WEST

Founded 1956, membership 245. The **West African Section** managed to go ahead with planned activities in spite of

tremendous difficulties and challenges faced during the year. A public lecture and two sessions of their School of the

Wisdom were held at the headquarters building, known as 'Theosophy House', which they have managed to establish with individual members' contributions. The plot of land is in a prime area and was donated by a now-deceased

member, for whose generous gesture they are very grateful, offering the Section an opportunity to have a place of their own.

Mr John Osmond Boakye
General Secretary

ARGENTINA AND PARAGUAY

Founded 1920, membership 352. The **Argentinian Section** has a Centre in San Rafael, Mendoza, that holds study and reflection activities for members and sympathizers, where they held the Section's 50th Summer School in January with Juan Viñas as coordinator and 70 participants in attendance. The topics were: 'Theosophy: A knowledge applied to everyday life' and 'The Theosophical Society: A critical analysis of their objectives'. TS members from Chile, Bolivia, Peru, and Cuba participated in the activities, making suggestions with innovative ideas. The Winter School topic was 'Preparation for Yoga'. The School was conducted by Mr Ricardo

Lindeman from Brasilia, and it had an attendance of 32. The Section organized group meditations for a few months, gathering in a park and taking meditation and theosophical subjects, so that anyone in the park could participate if they wished. The Section also participated in book fairs in San Lorenzo and Río Cuarto, where they distributed many information flyers about the work of the TS and sold quite a number of books. The contents of their web page continued to grow. They completed the painting of their building at a high cost with the contribution and efforts of all the members.

Mr Jorge Carlos García
General Secretary

AUSTRALIA

Founded 1895, membership 921. The **Australian Section** has a new home for the National Headquarters on the Sydney city fringe. The former Theosophy House, was co-owned by the National Society and the Sydney ('Blavatsky') Lodge since 1985. Arrangements have been made highly favouring Blavatsky Lodge, which is very generous on the part of the purchaser. The Section held its annual convention in Sydney in January 2014

and also had very successful national events at the two TS centres in New South Wales and Queensland, including the School of Theosophy, with almost full study classes given by Mr Ed Abdill. Ed's theme was 'The Secret Gateway to Our Inner Self'. The Canyonleigh Centre had a popular event, 'Gnosticism and Esoteric Christianity', and an extremely well received event on 'Healing and Transformation: an Exploration Through

Dialogue and Practice'. The General Secretary visited nearly all the centres around the Section during the year. The Section is working on a new website that is almost complete and has established a social media presence with a Facebook page. Contact with members was established through newly created e-bulletins sent out from the National Headquarters. The Online Public Access Catalogue continued to grow and evolve. A striking archival photo of the original Adyar Library in India was added to the home page. An annual transfer of funds from the Australian Section to support wages at Adyar for the next three years

commenced in April 2014. The Section continues to award the John Cooper memorial prize annually to Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney. TS and TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) members worked side by side for many weeks, getting aid to the victims by the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. TOS continued the support for the Pakistan Home Schools (providing 31 scholarships) and started to support the Olcott Memorial High School in Adyar and the Golden Link College in the Philippines.

Mrs Linda Oliveira
General Secretary

BELGIUM

Founded 1911, membership 91. The **Belgian Section** has been developing an action plan since early September to modernize the Section's programmes and presentation. They are putting special emphasis on Wallonia, the French-speaking southern part of the country, by seeking inspiration mainly from sister Sections and their Lodges, and re-connecting with them more actively. In Brussels as well as in the Provinces, activities continued with lectures and study

classes. In the Brussels Headquarters they had regular sessions around J. Krishnamurti's teachings in addition to a basic programme of 'Introduction to Theosophy'. Among the theosophical works studied during evening classes were Taimni's *A Way to Self-Discovery* and his commentaries on the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, *The Secret Doctrine*, and Jinarājadāsa's *Principles of Theosophy*.

Mrs Sabine Van Osta
General Secretary

BRAZIL

Founded 1920, membership 768. The **Brazilian Section** is the largest and most active Section in Latin America. One new group, 'Sobral' in Ceara state, was formed and Lodge 'Amizade' was dissolved. In addition to the numerous Lodges and

study groups, regular meetings and seminars, the national gathering included the 33rd Summer School, with an attendance of 170. There were lectures, panels, and group study with themes related to the work by Clara Codd's *The*

Technique of the Spiritual Life. There were 8 other national gatherings with several lecturers each on theosophical themes. The 19th International School of Theosophy was held over 5 days in July on the theme 'Ancient Wisdom—A Way to Self-Awareness' with an attendance of 120. The main speakers were Mr Antonio Girardi, General Secretary of the Italian Section, and Mrs Patrizia Calvi, under Secretary of the same, giving 6 and 3 lectures respectively. The five main regions held regional meetings regularly. There were public lectures, seminars, workshops, and study meetings, as well as celebrations of Annie Besant's birthday and White Lotus Day. The Section has many departments, including Library, Bookshop, Editing House, Training, Internet, and TOS (Theosophical Order of Service). They also have three institutes: one in Brasilia and two in Sao Paulo, ie. the Raja Theosophical Centre and Pythagoras Institute. The Advertising Department has stored about 500 publications to their website, sent the News Bulletin each semester by email, and published videos for TV channels. TS Supren broadcasts lectures on theosophy

in a series, *Quest for Self-knowledge*. The magazine *Theosophia* is published quarterly, with 1,500 copies, and it is sent to every member in the country, with the remaining copies sent to the Lodges and study groups. The Cultural Department had lectures in the Congress of Inter-american Theosophical Federation, in Florence and in Rome, and interaction with the Argentinian Section. Themes ranged from 'Preparation for Yoga' to 'Introduction of the Theosophical Way of Thinking'. The Training Department recorded talks given by the lecturers in the Brazil Headquarters, aiming to spread them to all Lodges in Brazil. The Editing House printed 6 books and a bimonthly magazine *Sofia*, printing 6,500 copies of each issue. TOS took part in every national event with presentations and bazaars. They supported an institution which assists HIV-positive children. A group in Joao Pessoa started a project of 'musicalizing' destitute children and young people. They also promoted holistic education with lectures and discussions in schools and universities.

Mr Marcos L. B. de Resende
General Secretary

CUBA

Founded 1905, membership 561. The **Cuban Section** is the second largest in Latin America. The Section obtained official permission from the government authorities for the publication of their Theosophical e-Magazine, *Revista Teosófica Cubana*, which started its publication in January 2014 as a quarterly

in electronic form. Their Annual Convention was celebrated in January, with the theme 'Important Theosophical Criteria in Our Work'. The studies in the Lodges have continued as in previous years, with themes based on theosophical books, lectures, and articles. The books studied included *The Yoga in the*

Bhagavat Gita, Thought Power, its Control and Culture, A Study in Consciousness, Talks on the Path of Occultism, Shiva Sutras and Man, God and the Universe, The Hidden Side of Things, The Imitation of Christ, Science of the Emotions. The Havana Lodges organized a Summer School workshop with the theme 'Diagram of Meditation', attended by 30 active members. The closing conference was open to the public, with constructive

participation through suggestions and questions. Some members from Havana, including Ms Fariñas, visited three out of the four Lodges outside the capital, in the cities of Matanzas, Santa Clara, and Cienfuegos. All Lodges celebrated theosophical dates: Founders Day, Adyar Day, and White Lotus Day.

Ms Barbara A. Fariñas Piña
General Secretary

ENGLAND

Founded 1888, membership 1,068. Membership of the **English Section** (TSE), the largest in Europe, has remained mostly stable over the past year. After Mr Eric McGough retired due to health, Mr Colin Price was re-elected in April. Much of the year was focussed on cutting financial losses and ensuring resources for future growth. The sale of the Tekels Park Estate was concluded in September: the proceeds were donated to a new account, set up and controlled by the TSE at the Charities Aid Foundation to benefit the TSE via charitable giving,

and the money ethically invested. The English Summer School continued to be well-supported, with over 100 people attending for a week of lectures and study groups. The Headquarters building continued to be used extensively for lectures and study groups throughout the week in term time. The Dhyana Centre, the meditation lodge, is particularly popular, with around 100 members and sessions at least three days a week and some weekends.

Mr Colin Price
General Secretary

FINLAND

Founded 1907, membership 413. The **Finnish Section** has the largest membership of the Nordic countries. Out of their 23 Lodges, two are in Estonia, the neighbouring country to the south. Seventeen members attended the 37th European Congress in Paris, where they had also a special meeting with the

International President, Mr Tim Boyd. The General Secretary also attended the ITC conferences in Naarden, the subject of which was: 'Theosophy, Unity, and Helping the World . . . Where do we go from here?' Mr Ingo de Jong from Sweden conducted a fourth weekend seminar on '*The Secret Doctrine: Evolution of Man*'.

The Summer School took place at Kreivila with the theme 'Spirituality and Science', with an attendance of 65. The summer camp in Estonia had as its theme 'Between the Self and Selflessness'. The Headquarters held a public lecture every Sunday, except during summer every fortnight. The Lodges, in addition to meetings, arranged public lectures in 17 towns. 14 lodges run their own library. The Section upgraded their technical facilities and started webcasting some lectures. The theosophical library in Helsinki now has a computerized catalogue and an updated reference library.

New translations of all volumes of *The Secret Doctrine* and several other books of H. P. Blavatsky were published as e-books. Kreivila Theosophical Centre, in the southwest, celebrated its 60th anniversary. It is a summer centre, providing accommodation, vegetarian meals, and friendly hospitality. The TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) in Finland supported the Olcott Memorial Secondary High School, the Social Welfare Centre, and the Boys' Hostel in Adyar.

Ms Marja Artamaa
General Secretary

FRANCE

Founded 1899, membership 368. The highlight of the activities of the **French Section** during the year was the 37th European Congress, held at the Section's Paris Headquarters from 30 July to 3 August. The theme was 'Bridging Science and Spirituality'. The program was co-ordinated with the European Federation, while the Section handled the logistics. Around 190 participants attended from 24 countries, mostly from European Sections, but also the USA, South America, Australia, and Asia. The President, Mr Tim Boyd, was the guest of honour, and gave two lectures, led a meeting with members, and agreed to be interviewed by the General Secretary. Other distinguished speakers were Ulrich Mohrhoff, Andrej Detela, Muriel Pécastaing-Boissière, Luc Lambs, and several General Secretaries, along with European

scientists and scholars. The complete program of the Congress is accessible on the website of the European Federation.

At the Paris Headquarters, the work of branches continued regularly once a month with attention given mainly to theosophy. Alcyone Group received the charter to become Alcyone Branch and Lodge Jeanne d'Arc in Orléans was revived. Courses were offered free of charge three times per month. Video projections of Jiddu Krishnamurti's talks were offered quarterly. Public lectures were delivered every fortnight with minimal or no charge. This year no seminar was organized due to the energy being focused on the preparations for the hosting of the 37th European Congress. The Lodges organized public lectures, meetings, and talks.

Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu
General Secretary

GERMANY

Founded 1902, membership 112. The **German Section** held their Summer School in Kassel and Ms Mary Anderson, former International Vice-President and Secretary, was the guest of honour. The theme was 'Ways to Divine Wisdom'. There were talks about famous theosophists like Annie Besant, Rukmini Devi, Clara Codd and also Albert Schweitzer from their different views. Mary Anderson and Karin Gruber presented the preliminary translation of Clara Codd's *Theosophy as the Masters*

See It. Karlheinz' Tackenberg's foundation, Living Theosophy, will fund the new book. They commemorated the former International President and introduced the new one with some pictures from Adyar. The Section had also a Northern German Meeting, which was well attended. Work in the seven Lodges and one study group continued fortnightly with good attendance by members, guests, and interested friends.

Mrs Manuela Kaulich
General Secretary

GREECE

Founded 1928, membership 215. In the **Greek Section** a new study group of 9 members was formed in the island of Crete, named 'Radamanthis'. The Section celebrated the traditional Theosophical holidays of Foundation Day, White Lotus Day, and Adyar Day. The Lodges meet regularly upon the objects of the TS. Their

magazine, *Ilisos*, is being printed every three months with 500 subscribers and is given free to all members. The first Greek edition of Helena P. Blavatsky's *The Secret Doctrine*, v.iii, *Occultism*, has been published and Book B is being translated.

Mr Antonios Papandreou
General Secretary

ICELAND

Founded 1921, membership 399. The **Icelandic Section** held their Summer School in Reykjavik. The theme was 'The Step from Knowledge to Practice', which was discussed in depth and proved to be a very practical subject. Fridays were lecture meetings. Saturday meetings started with half-an-hour meditation, and after the break continued with discussion on the practice of meditation or video with discussion. This year there were 46 meetings, 22 Friday lecture-meetings,

and 23 Saturday meetings plus Lotus Day. Attendance was usually 40-60 persons. The library, with 5-6,000 titles, was open at the same time. During January and February a group of members viewed seven DVDs of dialogues between J. Krishnamurti and Drs David Bohm and David Shainberg, *The Transformation of Man*, followed by very fruitful discussions. The Section's bi-annual journal, *Gangleri*, has been published since 1926, with 96-page issues.

It was sold to over 700 subscribers. Their newsletter, *Mundilfari*, was published three times a year. Their website has a new name and is available in Icelandic and English. It was frequently visited by enquirers who often applied for membership through this page. Unfortunately, the General Secretary says that the Section is still going through financial difficulties due to the 2008 economic crisis and the

City Council demanding higher property taxes for the Headquarters building in Reykjavik. Nevertheless, the TS is gradually recovering. The publisher of the Icelandic Section reissued a translation of the *Bhagavad Gita* and republished the book, *A Date with the Universe* by Sigvaldi Hjalmarsson.

Mr Halldor Haraldsson
General Secretary

INDIA

Founded 1891, membership 11,327. The **Indian Section** remains the largest section of the TS. Its 16 Federations were active throughout the year. Mr S. Sundaram was re-elected unopposed as the General Secretary for another term of 3 years. Their annual convention was held during the International Convention at Adyar in December 2013, which was chaired by the former International Secretary, Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy, and addressed by the former VicePresident, Mr M. P. Singhal. Annual conferences were held by most Federations. Mr Singhal and Dr Satapathy were chief guests in one such annual conference each, and Mr Sundaram was the chief guest in three of these annual conferences. The 91st South India Conference was held in Adyar during the Easter holidays, with 145 participants and its theme was '*The Key to Theosophy*' by HPB. The Conference was inaugurated by Dr Satapathy, there were 12 speakers, and the concluding address was given by Dr A. Kannan. The North Indian Study camp was held in Varanasi

during October 2013 with 65 delegates from different Federations. Prof. R. C. Tampi and Mr P. K. Jayaswal directed the study camp on the basic theme of *The Secret Doctrine* by HPB. Another study camp was organized jointly by Bihar and UP Federations on HPB's *The Key to Theosophy* in March 2014. M. P. and Rajasthan and UP Federations jointly organized a study camp on *The Voice of the Silence* by HPB in July 2014 with about 70 participants. The Eastern Zonal Conference of the TS and TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) was hosted by the Bengal Theosophical Federation in February-March 2014 where the General Secretary was the chief guest.

Dr Annie Besant's 166th Birth Anniversary, Foundation Day, Adyar Day, and White Lotus Day were duly celebrated by the Indian Section. Kashi Tattva Sabha organized 18 public lectures during the year of which 11 were delivered by TS Members and 7 by scholars from different institutions.

The General Secretary spoke at the Indo-Pacific Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, in November 2013. He visited different Federations and Lodges in India during the year and spoke in many places. The Assistant General Secretary, Mr Pradeep Mahapatra, was Chief Guest at the annual conference of the Bihar Theosophical Federation and he also visited several Lodges in A. P., Odisha, and the Lodge at Bhowali. Seven National Lecturers gave talks in various places during the year. Mr Shrivatsa Goswamiji, an eminent scholar, gave a public talk at the Indian Section Headquarters on the theme 'A Spiritual Aspect of Music'. Mr Pedro Oliveira, former International Secretary, delivered a talk on *The Future of Humanity* at Bengaluru City Lodge.

A meeting of the Federation Secretaries and Chairmen of Zonal Property Committees was held in Varanasi to

review the policies on propagation of Theosophy and management of properties. It was decided to form a Central Property Committee at the Section Headquarters. The Bhowali Centre, with excellent conference facilities, food, and accommodation, has been set up in the Himalayas, where it is being increasingly used for study camps and retreats, and it will generate income for the Section in the future. *The Indian Theosophist*, the Section's journal, was published every month with an average monthly circulation of 3,500 copies. A special number of the journal was published to commemorate 125 years of publication of *The Key to Theosophy* and *The Voice of the Silence* by HPB. In addition to the Section journal, 13 Federations published their own journals at regular intervals.

Mr S. Sundaram
General Secretary

INDONESIA

Founded 1912, membership 190. **Indonesia** hosted the Indo-Pacific Federation Conference in Bali in November 2013. This was a very successful gathering with almost 100 representatives from the Indo-Pacific region. Activities took place in Jakarta, Bundung, Solo, and

Surabaya. The General Secretary, Mr Herry Ispoernomo, passed away in early 2014, so there is an election process underway for a replacement. Mr Vic Hao Chin Jr., facilitated a 'Process of Self-Transformation Seminar' in Bundung in January 2014.

ITALY

Founded 1902, membership 1008. The **Italian Section** had its 100th National Congress, taking place in Vicenza with the newly elected International President Mr Tim Boyd as the guest speaker. He

delivered other lectures for the Vicenza and Venice Lodges too. The diffusion of the Theosophical Society in Italy is characterized by the presence of many small groups and centres. An important

role is covered by the ITS website, which is constantly updated and the *Edizioni Teosofiche Italiane* website, which presents theosophical literature to the public, both in Italian and in English. The monthly magazine has a run of 1,300 copies, with over 1,000 subscribers, and their monthly newsletter is emailed to over 2,400 people. The Italian Section has regular positive relationships with the academic world and with Universities.

The Section organized the traditional spring seminar with the Swiss Theosophical Society with the subject, 'L'Armonia nella Teosofia' (The Harmony of Theosophy). Their 100th National Congress took place in Creazzo, Vicenza, with the subject 'The various forms of spirituality between present and future'. A delegation of eleven Italian members participated in the 37th European Congress in Paris, the theme of which was 'Bridging Science and Spirituality'. Italian Section members were also in Naarden in August 2014 for the ITC gathering, the subject of which was 'Theosophy, Unity,

and Helping the World . . . Where do we go from here?' On 27 September in Vicenza, Jose Foglia held an important seminar on the theme 'The urgency of a new culture: Neuroscience, Spirituality and Conscience'. The Italian Section kept strong connections, ideal and real, with the Adyar Headquarters and keeps active within the European Theosophical Federation as well as within the International Theosophical Centre in Naarden (The Netherlands). Important bonds were strengthened with the Brazilian TS. The General Secretary, Mr Antonio Girardi, and Patricia Calvi delivered lectures on the theme 'Ancient Wisdom, a path towards Awakening' at the Instituto Teosofico de Brasilia as part of their international School of Theosophy. Activities in cooperation with the Italian Theosophical Order of Service have been further developed during the year with support to charity initiatives in Italy, India, Pakistan, Burma, Kenya, Tanzania, and the Philippines.

Mr Antonio Girardi
General Secretary

MEXICO

Founded 1919, membership 159. The **Mexican Section** had a very active year. At the National convention Mr Enrique Sanchez was elected as National President for the period 2015-2017. Mexico participated in the Inter-American Theosophical Federation (IATF) Congress held at the TSA Headquarters in Wheaton from 28 May to 1 June. The theme was 'Theosophy as Action', and Mrs Arroyo lectured

about Inner Life and Daily Life. During the Congress, Mrs Arroyo participated in the IATF meeting, where Mrs Isis Resende (the only candidate) was elected as President of the IATF and Mrs Arroyo as Vice President.

The General Secretary reported that everybody in Mexico is really happy with Mr Tim Boyd as the new International President. They received Mr Mahendra

P. Singhal from India at the National Headquarters and in Puebla to direct the Summer School of the Wisdom with the theme 'The Theosophical Life: Choices and Challenges'. The Section also received Mrs Isis Resende along with 2 members from Bolivia, 1 from Costa Rica and 8 from Brasil in November-December and had happy and fun days with her inspired talks of different topics. At

the national headquarters, the Section organized several seminars and courses this year and the General Secretary visited Lodges and centres in different parts of the country. The traditional theosophical days were celebrated. The building of the TS in Mexico is now ready to legalize and to regularize them.

Mrs Lissette Arroyo Jimenez
National President

THE NETHERLANDS

Founded 1897, membership 347. The Headquarters of the **Dutch Section** in Amsterdam is open in the afternoons from Wednesday till Saturday. The library collection consists of 21,000 books and their Library catalogue is online at their website. A branch of the bookshop, Theosofische boekhandel Adyar, in Amsterdam, was opened in June at the International Theosophical Centre (ITC) in Naarden. The transformation of office, library, and bookshop into one attractive information centre is in progress led by the Vice Chairman with the support of volunteers. The Dutch Section has a close and brotherly co-operation with the ITC and some of its programmes are held there. National activities during the year included a

successful and inspiring 'Dutch Day', with the International President, Mr Tim Boyd, as the guest speaker, a silent retreat, a commemoration meeting on the passing of the former international President, Mrs Radha Burnier, a large symposium involving sister organizations, two Krishnamurti study days, and an ongoing six-day programme on meditation. The quarterly magazine, *Theosophia*, is published also on the internet, <www.theosofie.nl>. At the headquarters two study groups took up *The Secret Doctrine* and the *Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*. Lectures, meditation, and study continued in the Lodges and centres.

Mrs Els Rijneker
General Secretary

NEW ZEALAND

Founded 1896, membership 704. The **New Zealand Section** held its national convention in Auckland with guest speakers Mrs Betty Bland from the USA, Dorothy Bell from Australia, and Sri

Prem Prayijan Prabhu. They shared various aspects on the convention theme, 'Our potential for change'. The School of Theosophy, with the theme 'The Secret Gateway', was held for six days with

guest speaker Mr Ed Abdill from New York. The northern region ran a series of four weekend workshops on the theme 'Know Thyself, Be Thyself', facilitated by Dorothy Bell. The central region hosted two events with themes 'Teachings of the Mystics' and 'Our Life Path in the Really Big Picture'. The Southern Region had also a great event. Two Lodges were chartered. The National President visited all branches during the year to have discussions with them and support their needs. Several Lodges started or continued with meditation, yoga and tai-chi sessions, some including a form of healing service, and studying aspects of theosophy. The magazine, *Theosophia*, continues to be popular around the world.

The Section has put together a three-

year strategic education policy to be presented at the next annual meeting. The focus will be on creating a greater public awareness of Theosophy in New Zealand and making greater use of the internet and social media to engage members and the public in an exploration of theosophical principles and ideas. The policy has the aim of bringing people together in workshops and helping at branches throughout the country. This also includes the use of webinars and the live broadcasting of future events. The Section has also been reviewing its board structure over the last couple of years, moving to a smaller elected board, which was overwhelmingly voted in favour.

Mr John Vorstermans
National President

THE PHILIPPINES

Founded 1933, membership 304. At the Philippine National Convention, members decided on the major thrust of the Section, which includes the promotion of individual spiritual growth of members through Self-Transformation Seminars, retreats, study courses towards transformational education, youth programmes, and to spread a knowledge of theosophy through the use of the Internet, as well as to promote TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) work and formation of a theosophical arts group. The TS and TOS undertook intensive relief services for the victims of the devastating Haiyan typhoon with five containers of construction materials, cloths, and food shipped to

affected areas with the support of the international theosophical community. The Section continues to run five theosophical schools with a total of 793 enrolled students: Golden Link College, Sunshine Learning Centre, TOS Learning Center, Philippine Lumen School and Golden Link College Bohol campus. The Theosophical Publishing House in Manila released *Sharing the Light*, vol. 3, by Geoffrey Hodson, funded by the Geoffrey Hodson Book Fund. It also joined the Annual International Book Fund and published many booklets on various topics. The TS in the Philippines participated in the first international conference on Theosophical education,

with the theme 'Education for a New Humanity', in Wheaton, USA; the national conference of the TS in America; and the Indo-Pacific Federation in Bali; conducted a Self-Transformation course online through a weekly webinar organized by the TS in America, and conducted the same course in Bandung, Indonesia, along with public seminars or lectures

and monthly Skype lectures. A national convention with Senator Leticia Shahani as guest speaker and a regional convention organized by the Visayas-Mindanao Theosophical Federation and the Luzon Theosophical Federation were also held during the year.

Dr Roselmo Z. Doval-Santos
General Secretary

PORTUGAL

Founded 1921, membership 127. The **Portuguese Section** took great advantage of its new Headquarters in Lisbon inaugurated in November 2013. It brought a new impetus to the Section. Along with the celebration of the traditional commemorative days, a set of public sessions were held in Lisbon. These public sessions had in view the realization of public talks and discussion sessions applying to the spontaneous contribution of the participants and panels. A much-

appreciated public talk was given by Maria Jose Barrios on the theme 'The journey of consciousness: from desire to will'. As in previous years, Lodges have developed their activities in a much decentralized way — in Lisbon, Porto, and Evora; and one study group is actively working in the Azores. They maintain that this decentralization is fundamental for the spreading of Theosophy.

Mr Carlos Guerra
General Secretary

SPAIN

Founded 1921, membership 328. The **Spanish Section** held their sixth Silent Retreat directed by Trān-Thi-Kim-Diêu, with 50 attendees. The study was based on *At the Feet of the Master* by Krishnamurti and *Viveka-Chudamani* by Shankara, with activities always combined with meditation. At Easter, the Section had its 36th Jornadas Ibéricas (or Spanish Days) over a four-day period, held in San Lorenzo del Escorial, near Madrid, with 50 people attending. Most of the Spanish

Lodges were represented. As in the last few years, Hesperia Lodge (in Madrid) and the General Secretary, Mrs Angels Torra, organized the event, with the theme 'The Hermetic Thought'. The Section's summer school, with the theme 'The Way of the Heart', had 132 participants doing a comparative study of *The Voice of the Silence* and *The Path of the Bodhisattva* by Shantideva, led by Mr Fernando de Torrijos. During the year the Section gained 2 new study centres. Several

members of the Section's Board visited 12 Spanish Lodges and study groups, giving lectures and workshops in every city visited. The Spanish Theosophical Publishing House came out with new

printings of *At the feet of the Master*, *The Key to Theosophy*, and *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*.

Mrs Angels Torra Buron
General Secretary

SWEDEN

Founded 1895, membership 171. The **Swedish Section** had series of regular gatherings, lectures, and autumn and spring studies. The studies included *The Secret Doctrine*, Patañjali's *Yoga Sutras*, Advaita Vedanta, Dialogue, and John Algeo's *Theosophy — An Introductory Study Course*. The autumn gathering had theme of 'The Ageless Wisdom in

different Religions' and the other theme was 'Spirituality and Culture'. During the spring weekend they studied different aspects of the *Perennial Wisdom* by workshops of 'Cosmos', 'the Brain' and 'Spirituality'. The theme of the Summer School was 'Science and Spirituality'.

Mr Pertti Spets
General Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Founded 1886, membership 3,378. The work of the TS in **America (TSA)** is necessarily collaborative. In recent years, the role of Internet and information technology has come to be a vital component in almost everything that is done, with the aim to make the Theosophical teachings and worldview more available to both members and the public. Public programmes were presented every day at the Olcott national centre, with more of that programming being made available online, both in live streaming and as archival video and audio available on their website. The classes and lectures were normally viewed and participated in, live, in countries around the world. The archives of mp3 and video recordings were the most accessed part of the web offerings. The TS Wiki had become a

theosophical resource for students around the world. The archivist, Janet Kerschner, developed a policy document for the conduct and accessibility of the archives.

In April, Mr Tim Boyd was elected TS International President and in May he was re-elected as President of the TSA. The Section hosted two international events. The first was the Inter-American Theosophical Federation Congress. It was held in May at the Olcott Headquarters, drawing members from fourteen countries in North, South, and Central America for programmes and the triennial election of officers. In July they hosted the 'Education for a New Humanity' conference. For four days it brought together educators from several educational models with links to Theosophy: Krishnamurti, Waldorf, Montessori, Raja Yoga, Golden

Link schools, The Prairie School of Dupage, and Education for Life.

To support the local groups, the National Secretary, Mr David Bruce, scheduled national speakers to visit the various Lodges, study centres, camps, and Federations. During the last fiscal year, 20 national speakers gave 71 presentations at 41 locations. The prison programme continues to reach out to inmates across the country with very good results. Fifteen volunteer mentors worked for 43 prisoners to complete their correspondence courses. The Henry S. Olcott Memorial Library has improved its online presence through a redesigned web-page and catalogue. Mrs Marina Maestas was welcomed back into her previous role as Library Director in December. About 50 new titles were added to the collection each month. Library acquisition funding was directly tied to the sales of the Amazon store. The Public Programs Department scheduled, promoted, and presented the programs that were offered at the Theosophical Society throughout the year. The Program Committee strived to provide a wide range of high-quality programs for study, meditation, service, and community participation that were of interest to current members and also attract new people. The Thursday night lectures were intended for the general public and covered

an eclectic range of topics from different traditions. By webcasting many of these programs, a larger national and international audience were reached, as an increasing number of people view these programs online. The Section continued the effort to develop and offer more online programs in the interactive webinar format. These included a number of classes such as 'The Process of Self-Transformation' with Vic Hao Chin and 'At Home with Theosophy' with Pablo Sender. Programs suitable for children and that foster community involvement included 'Bedtime Stories' and The Order of the Round Table ritual. The Theosophical Publishing House (TPH), in addition to printing the usual around ten books per year, the production of e-books was continuing at an accelerated pace. An additional of 30 titles were hosted since January, 2014. The Foreign Rights & Permissions Manager brought over 20 new contracts from publishers in Spain, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Germany, and Italy. For the immediate future there is a hope to facilitate a greater flow of resources from the American Section to Adyar. Particularly the areas of technology and archive management can expect high levels of cooperation between the two campuses.

Mr Tim Boyd
General Secretary

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AMERICA, CENTRAL

Founded 1929, membership 17. The Regional Association of Central America comprises Nicaragua and El Salvador. In Nicaragua, Blavatsky Lodge meets in Managua, the capital city, and in El Salvador, Teotl Lodge meets in San Salvador. Directed study on the *Voice of the Silence* was conducted with delivery of information material for each participant. There were video conferences and 17 public lectures. Some topics were

Doctrine of Original Sin, Meditation, Vegetarianism, Motion and Energy, Jinajadasa in El Salvador, Discipleship, Theosophical Mysticism, Ancient Wisdom in the Modern World, Universal Brotherhood, Life after Death, Karma, etc. Beatriz Elisena Martínez Pozas was chosen as the Organizing Secretary from October 2014 to September 2016.

Mrs Ligia Gutiérrez Simpson
Organizing Secretary

AUSTRIA

Founded 1912, membership 49. The three Lodges offered weekly lectures throughout the study year, based on classical theosophical teachings and related subjects. In October 2013 the European School of Theosophy took place near the city of Graz. The focus of the lectures was on the teachings of H. P. Blavatsky and the Mahatma Letters. Members received the magazine *Adyar*

published by the German TS three times a year. The annual meeting was held at the facilities of the Vienna Lodge. The three Lodges continued to face financial difficulties, but they are still optimistic to overcome this problem and are confident that the future of the Association is secured.

Mr Albert Schichl
Organizing Secretary

CANADA

Founded 1924, (membership 171 in 2011). No report received, although activities and School of Wisdom on 'The Science of Yoga' took place.

Mr Medardo Martinez Cruz
Organizing Secretary

CHILE

Founded 1920, membership 52. The motto for the year 2014 was 'Inner Knowledge, Spiritual Key'. To make theosophy known they published *The Chilean Theosophical Magazine*, distributed pamphlets on subways and in the internet, e-published the *Theosophical Brochure*, which is sent to Spanish-speaking countries monthly. The main subjects of study in the Lodges were *The Way of Service*, *Evolution of Consciousness*, *The Voice of the Silence*, *Renewal of Oneself*, and *Talks on the Path of Occultism*. Public lectures included The path to inner change; Inner development through yoga and Christianity; Knowledge, Wisdom and Inner Realization; Awakening as a new

spiritual reality, Suffering as learning, etc. Meditation was conducted once each month. World Peace Meditation every Wednesday had good participation. The Education Department arranged public activities: Courses of Theosophy and Kirshnamurti in our lives, and several workshops. They had visitors from Argentina and some members attended the Summer School in San Rafael in Argentina. Translation work continued with four books and collaborative translations of *The Theosophist* in Spanish. The TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) in Chile helped children and older people in need.

Mr Cesar A. Ortega Ortiz
Organizing Secretary

IRELAND

Founded 1919, membership 72. The All Ireland Convention was held in Dublin with Mr Bhupendra Vora as the guest speaker, accompanied by his wife Suddha. The theme was 'The Mystical Journey'. The Organizing Secretary had frequent contact with members through circulars with TS news and bi-monthly *Study Notes*. The long-standing members are studying a course on *The Voice of the Silence*. Theosophical books and magazines are sent to members on request. Belfast Lodge held meetings every second Sunday, with meditation, talk or study using books such as *Theosophy as the Masters See It*, *Thought Power*, and *Some Words on*

Daily Life. Some of the talks by members were Living in Harmony from a Theosophical Perspective, The Masters come to Mind, The Mystery of Glastonbury, The Significance of Ritual in Spiritual Work. Phoenix Lodge held well-attended quarterly meetings with meditation followed by a talk or study, and a discussion. The topics were Vegetarianism, Anger, Compassion and Forgiveness, and We are Spiritual Beings having a Physical Experience. The Cloraine Study Group meetings commenced with meditation to music, followed by study and discussion.

Ms Marie Harkness
Organizing Secretary

IVORY COAST

Founded 1997. No report.

Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh
Organizing Secretary

NORWAY

Founded 1913, membership 15. Due partly to lack of funds there were no activities arranged, but Facebook was frequently updated. The International President's blog was always posted on

the website, and was much appreciated by all.

Dr Saleh Noshie
Organizing Secretary

SCOTLAND

Founded 1910, membership 120. The National members have experienced an inspiring year. More than half of the members have now studied the *Diploma Course in Theosophy*, which is run by the English Section. They had inter-lodge meetings, which enabled members of different Lodges to unite towards the common purpose of pursuing the three Objects whilst inspiring each other towards greater effort. Scottish members see that our Society stands as a beacon of light for seekers after truth thereby

playing its intended part in the current global shift in consciousness. Dundee Lodge had well-attended talks and its members were active at the national level. Edinburgh Lodge offered talks by various international and local speakers and a study course on *The Secret Doctrine*. It has a reputation as a thriving spiritual centre. Glasgow Lodge has attracted new people to the various talks, and had visits by both local and international speakers.

Mr Gary Kidgell
Organizing Secretary

SLOVENIA

Founded 1992, membership 55. The four Lodges had regular weekly meetings. Public lectures were held in Celje, Koper and Ljubljana. The Lodges studied classical theosophical books such as *Talks on The Path of Occultism*, *At the Feet of the Master*, and *Light on the Path*, Taimni's *Self-Culture*, HPB's *Practical*

Occultism, the *Upanishads*, articles by Radha Burnier and other writers, some talks of J. Krishnamurti, and they practiced right living, harmony, and brotherhood. All the theosophical traditional days were celebrated, and a memorial meeting on 3.11.2013 for the beloved President Radha Burnier was held. The Autumn

School had the theme *At The Feet of The Master* — 1st part (from *Talks on The Path of Occultism*). The Winter School's theme was 'Duty to the Truth'. The Summer School's theme was 'The wisdom of the Upanishads', with Bhupendra Vora as the guest speaker. The second Autumn School was held also during the reporting year and had as its theme *At The Feet of the Master* — 2nd part (from *Talks on the Path of Occultism*).

An annual gathering was held in Celje with 74% of the members present. Adyar Lodge, in Ljubljana, occupied new premises for a reasonable price, making the work easier. The TS in Slovenia continued to support the Social Welfare Centre in Adyar with other TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) activities.

Mrs Breda Zagar
Organizing Secretary

TOGO

Founded 1997, membership 26. In two Lodges the following books were studied: *Self-Culture* by I. K. Taimni and *The Invisible Helpers* by John Coats. In all the Lodges, a full-moon meditation was organized. The National Convention had talks on Towards the Temple, Yama and Niyama, and The Two Fundamental

Laws. Gregoire Ativon, priest of the Togo Liberal Catholic Church, gave a talk which led to a lively discussion and debate. TS in France sent monthly the magazine *Le Lotus Bleu* and other forms of help, including books.

Mr Kouma Dakey
Organizing Secretary

UKRAINE

Founded 2013, membership 89. Ukraine became a Regional Association in November 2013. All five Lodges and two study centres conducted regular meetings and studied classical theosophical literature. The ninth All-Ukrainian Convention had as its theme 'The Present Forms the Future', with over 70 participants. The TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) was created and it functions in six cities. It conducted 22 actions to help old people, children, animals, Nature, and those who have difficult positions in connection with military operations in the east of the country. A Scientific Group

was formed. It conducted a Conference on 'Helena Blavatsky and contemporaneity', pre-pared 3 publications, 8 talks, and had monthly seminars on Science and Theosophy. White Lotus Day was celebrated in Lodges and public meeting took place in Kiev. The theme of the Summer School was 'Creative Forces of Universe', which was really a school of brotherhood, divine Wisdom, and self-research. In Dnipropetrovsk volunteers participated at the repairing work at the HPB House, where Blavatsky was born. On 12 August, the date of her birth, there was a solemn meeting on

Day of the Light Messenger. The website was active, including also the magazine *Svitoch* (Light Bearer), which had 4 issues. A delegation of some members attended the 139th International Convention and School of the Wisdom in

Adyar, the European Congress in Paris, and the III All-Russian Conference in Moscow. Altogether 6 seminars, 1 round table, and 43 public lectures were held.

Ms Svitlana Gavrylenko
Organizing Secretary

URUGUAY

Founded 1925, membership 54. Every Lodge met once a week and studied *The Secret Doctrine*, *A Course in Miracles*, *Practicing the Power of Now* (Tolle), *Light on the Path*, articles from *Sophia*, the Theosophical magazine of the Spanish Section. Comparative mythologies were also studied in this period, especially *Heracles*, and the film *Pacific Warrior* was screened. The Library was open three days a week to the public. It

received digitalized magazines from various South American and Spanish sources. The TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) collected bottle-tops in exchange for food given to animal dispensaries and helped providing wheel-chairs for disabled people. They also gave free Chi-Kung classes, language workshops, and psychology classes.

Mr Ramón García
Organizing Secretary

WALES

Founded 1922, membership 72. There were study meetings with Eric McGough, talks twice a month in Bangor Lodge and once a month in Colwyn Bay Lodge. Visiting speakers were Gary Kidgell (The Wisdom Teaching and The Spiritual Path, and Archetypes and the Inner Journey), Colin Price (The Mystery of Human Consciousness), and David Harvey (Reincarnation and The Origins of Humanity). There were three other visiting speakers from the English Section and several local speakers gave excellent

talks on Theosophy. Conwy Branch had still not resumed. Swansea Lodge continued weekly study on *The Secret Doctrine* and held separate discussion meetings. Eleven new members took the English Section's *Diploma Course in Theosophy*. Thirty four members have already been awarded the Diploma in the past three years and have now a good basic knowledge of the Ageless Wisdom teachings.

Mrs Julie Cunningham
Organizing Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

ASIA, EAST AND SOUTH-EAST

Formed 1990, membership 537. Mr Chong Sanne was appointed in November 2013 as the Presidential Representative for Asia, East and South-East, including Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Myanmar, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and excluding countries where Sections already exist, for the purpose of developing theosophical work in the region and conducting the administration. This is a succession with the passing of Dr C. V. Agarwal in 2009. Currently the TS is pre-

sent in four countries, namely Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and Myanmar, with an active Lodge in each (see reports below). The Chinese Project Team, which develops the Chinese website and carries out translations into Chinese, is part of the Singapore Lodge. The website of the Presidential Agency is under construction. Singapore and Japan Lodges have their own websites.

Mr Chong Sanne
Presidential Representative

NIPPON LODGE (TOKYO, JAPAN)

Founded 1971, membership 50. The Nippon Lodge holds monthly study meetings in Tokyo, with an average attendance of 10 throughout the year. Recent studies in the Lodge meetings were based on Japanese texts, as they have translated H. P. Blavatsky's *The Secret Doctrine*, *Isis Unveiled* and *The Voice of the Silence*. The subjects of the meeting included profound themes of Seven cosmic principles, H. P. Blavatsky's Theosophical synthesis of Indian philosophy, Platonic Philosophy,

Christian religion, Jewish religion, Egyptian religion, the background of psychic phenomena, and deeper psychological meanings of occultism, religion, and evolution of spirituality and intellectuality in root races. The members confirmed the significance of cultivating understanding of the profound tenets of Theosophy. The Lodge published *Theosophia*, a bimonthly magazine in Japanese.

Mr Taichi Yamaguchi
Lodge President

SELANGOR LODGE (MALAYSIA)

Founded 1927, membership 83. In the Lodge, reading, discussion, and training sessions, as well as Commemoration events, get-togethers, and public talks were

organized during the year. Study courses were held on 'Self I-Identity Through Ho'oponopono', 'Life: Your Great Adventure', 'Non-duality Teachings', and

a one-day seminar on 'Satnam Rasayan'. Readings were done from *At The Feet of The Master*. On Sunday evenings, *Bhagavad Gita* classes were conducted.

The inauguration of their Meditation Room took place in August.

Ng Ay Na
Lodge President

OLCOTT LODGE (MYANMAR)

Founded 1885. Membership 35. Every weekend members and those interested gathered together and carried out group study. They conducted two kinds of meditation; conscious force meditation every weekend and life force meditation on every full moon. Also meditation trips to ancient sacred places around Myanmar

were made. The Lodge studied *The Secret Doctrine*, *Why Study the SD*, *Meeting Death as a Friend*, *Power Speech*, *Dimension of Consciousness*, *Master & Guru*. Videos were used as study and theosophical days were celebrated.

Mr Htay Myint
Lodge President

SINGAPORE LODGE

Founded 1889, membership 409. The Singapore Lodge is the largest in the region. It continued to focus on 'A Course in Theosophy & Meditation (ACTM)' programme as the principal means to attract new members. Last year it brought in 34 new members. A stand-alone course on Meditation is also always popular. *The Voice of the Silence* study class for members only was scheduled once a week from July to November. Talks and lectures included many readings: *Seven Great*

Religions of the World, *The Nature of Psychic Abilities*, *The Occult Hierarchy*, *Understanding Karma*, *Talk on Spiritual Healing*, *The Seven Rays*, etc. The Lodge also screened several videos. Members attended the 12th Triennial Conference of the Indo-Pacific Federation in Bali. The Lodge collected and gave a donation to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. The traditional theosophical days were celebrated.

Mr Chong Sanne
Lodge President

BANGLADESH

Founded 2013, membership 188. Mr B. L. Bhattacharyya was appointed as the Presidential Representative for Bangladesh in November 2013. He visited four Lodges in February 2014 and spoke on The Objects of the TS, Universal Brotherhood, Unity in Nature and What is Theosophy. He also spoke with

the students of Dohazan High School on Education. Three members visited Kolkata and collected books and magazines from Bro. Bhattacharyya. Lodges Olcott, Dhaka, and Kusum at Chetttagong are doing humanitarian activities and are trying to form TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) groups.

BOLIVIA

Founded 1965, membership 118. Commemorating significant theosophical dates had been the responsibility of the different Lodges. Joint meetings were organized on a variety of theosophical themes: Third Objective of the TS, Meditation, Reflections on the Path, The Elementals, Duties of TS Members, Letter No. 49, The Crystal Cave, and Mutation of the Mind. The National gathering at the Headquarters in Cochabamba was visited by Mrs Maria Rosa Martinez and Mr Ernesto Garcia from San Rafael, Argentina. Their topics were Theosophy Course, Theoretical and Practical Workshop about Meditation, Course for Theosophical Workers, Freedom, and Learning. They invited Dr Isaac Jauli as the international speaker to the second National gathering in three cities. Several workshops were held. The

National Theosophical Society gathering at the Headquarters in Cochabamba had as its topic 'The Three Paths of Perfection'. Eight public lectures were organized. Another National gathering was held with the topic of 'Basic Theosophy Course'. The Lodges studied *The Key to Theosophy*, *Peace is the Road*, *Letters from the Masters*, *Man and His Bodies*, *Daily Meditations*, *Human Regeneration*, *Transformation from the Inner to the Outer*, *The Science of Yoga*, the *Bhagavad Gita*, *At the Feet of the Master*, *How to Study the Secret Doctrine*, *Practical Occultism*, and other books and topics. The TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) and the Order of the Round Table were also functioning.

Ms Teresa Wayar de Nuñez
Presidential Representative

COLOMBIA

Founded 1937, membership 41. The Lodges studied *The Mental Body*, *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Process of Self-transformation*, *Fundamental Theosophy*, *Esoteric Christianity*, *The Theosophical Movement*. All the five Lodges, as part of their activity, carry out the study of their magazine, *Selección Teosofica*,

which is published quarterly and sent by email to members and to all Spanish-speaking Sections. Workshops offered included a 3-day 'Introductory Course' twice a year and the two-day one, 'The hidden side of health and disease'.

Ms Nelly Medina de Galvis
General Secretary

COSTA RICA

Founded 1997, membership 66. The Lodges met regularly and followed weekly study programs on a variety of profound theosophical topics. Guided

study of *Key to Theosophy* was conducted in three Lodges. A two-month introductory study of *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett* was held. Books that were

studied were *The Voice of the Silence*, the *Dhammapada*, *The Secret Doctrine*, *Light on the Path*, *The Science of Yoga*, *Thought Power*, and *Buddhism and Theosophy*.

The official theosophical dates, Wesak and the Lodges' anniversaries were celebrated.

Ms Maria de los Angeles Orlich Soto
Presidential Representative

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Founded 1987, membership (34). Santo Domingo received a special guest, Bro. Jesus Lopez from the TS in Puerto Rico. He gave a public lecture on 'The Chackras' and lectures in the retreat on 'The Enigmatic Sphenoid Bone' and 'The Mystery of the Androgynous'. The second guest was Bro. Gaspar Torres from the Krotona Institute of Theosophy in California. He held a series of presentations and a day-long seminar, with subjects like Philosophy vs. Theosophy: Science and Spirituality, The Theosophical Movement: Mission and Vision, and Jose Marti's Legacy to Education, which he shared

with more than 100 high-school students. In Puerto Plata the Lodge dedicated to lecture and study on *The Mahatma Letters*. They also shared and commented on the following videos or documentaries *Chackras*, *Zeitgeist*, *The Shadow Effect* and J. Krishnamurti's *Fear*. All the books of the Lodge library were indexed. The Presidential Representative visited both cities. During her visits she met with members and provided administrative guidance to the Lodges and offered personal counseling to individual members.

Mrs Magaly Polanco
Presidential Representative

HUNGARY

Founded 1907, membership 40. Public lectures were organized monthly (10 in the season) with 25-50 participants. The main subjects were on seeing daily problems from theosophical points of view. There were also monthly open meetings, to greet new interested persons and to answer their questions about the lecture. Voice-recorded lectures with slides were uploaded to a Lodge's website and quite a lot of people living in the countryside were able to listen to them. The

Presidential Representative participated in the ITC Congress in Naarden and one member took part in the 3rd Russian Theosophical Conference in Moscow. Two members translated writings, which were published in the website for free downloading. The fourth part of *The Secret Doctrine* (Anthropogenesis) was also published. The Lodges celebrated White Lotus Day.

Mr Thomas Martinovich
Presidential Representative

PAKISTAN

Founded 1948. Karachi Lodge is not functioning. Theosophical Order of Service and Jamshed Memorial School are working. Members meet occasionally at their residence.

Mr Bhagwan Bharvani

Presidential Agent

PERU

Founded 1924, membership 29. The two Lodges offered 12 public lectures with subject as The Dweller of the Treshold, Krishnamurthy and the Inner Revolution, Meditation Methods on Buddhism, Tao and Meditation, Contemplation: Christian Meditation, The Year of the Horse, Therapeutic power of Forgiveness, Mind and Illness, Magic Healing and Mesmerism, Energetic Centre and Health, Emotional Chakras. The Agency offered by internet a Course of Theosophy. Books that were studied were *Man, God and the Universe*, *Meditation*

and *Chakras*. Besides the official theosophical anniversaries, the Lodges celebrated together Christmas. In June they celebrated the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the Theosophical Society in Peru. TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) in Peru has a facebook page for spreading news about protection of animals and environment. They collected shoes and clothes in good condition and distributed them in the refuge 'Jesus is Love'.

Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar Calderón

Presidential Representative

PUERTO RICO

Founded 1925, membership 138. Public lectures were held every Sunday. Subjects were such as Karma, Reincarnation, The Evolution of Human Beings, The Mahatmas and the Theosophical Society, History of the Theosophical Society, Mme Blavatsky and her Journeys, Solstices and Equinoxes, The Emblem of the TS. Bro. Gaspar Torres was as a special guest giving three lectures on Dreams in the Light of Theosophy, The Relation between Manas and Karma (Mind and Desires), and What is my Purpose in Life. Workshop was on the 'Management of Emotions in Inner Development', with

attendance of more than 50. Group of brethren attended the triennial conference of the Inter-American Theosophical Federation in Wheaton, where they were received by the International President Mr Tim Boyd, and where the Presidential Representative was one of the speakers. The three Lodges met weekly and they studied *Self-Culture*, *Principles of the Theosophical Work*, *The Voice of the Silence*. One Lodge completed *The Key to Theosophy* and another Lodge started with it. The building of the Agency was painted at a high cost, with the contribution and efforts of all the members.

RUSSIA

Founded 2013, membership 147. A new Lodge Anahata, in Moscow, was formed. The Lodges had their weekly meetings, in which they studied *The Secret Doctrine (SD)* and made research on other teachings in the light of the SD. Some people study astrology and the research on that field is given for the day they meet. The new Lodge had two public meetings a month, giving lectures and open discussion. There were three publishing activities: *Novosti teosofii (News of Theosophy)* is published bi-monthly in electronic form only. *Vestnik Teosofii (Messenger of Theosophy)* is published both in electronic and printed form and is dedicated to the classical literature of theosophy. *The Buddhist Cathecism* by H. S. Olcott and *Autobiography of A. P. Sinnet* were published. Magazine *Vestnik (Messenger)* comes out once a year and consist of articles from modern Russian Theosophists. Internet activities were much used. They held several seminars and events, such as an International Conference in St. Petersburg 'From Death to Immortality,

from the Unreal to the Real', with over 200 participants; seminars in Moscow on 'The Secret Doctrine and Evolutionary Competence' and 'So Lord Buddha Taught', in both Mrs Svetlana Gavrilenko from Ukraine was invited to speak; the 3rd All-Russian Theosophical Conference with the topic of 'Brotherhood of Religions' attracted about 100 participants from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Belgium and Hungary, Mr Jan-Jelle Keppler from Belgium being among the guest speakers; and a seminar on 'Mahachohan's Message'. In Kemerovo a Theosophical School was organized on the *Secret Doctrine* and a conference for TS members with the theme 'Preparation for organizing the official Theosophical Society in Russia'. Theosophical Readings Summer School was held in Belokuriha. A weekly Sunday webinar on Studying *The Secret Doctrine* was launched by the Presidential Representative. The theosophical dates were celebrated in most of the Lodges.

Mr Pavel Malakhov
Presidential Agent

SRI LANKA

Founded 1926, membership 182. There were several lectures with the following topics: If there is a life after death, how do we prepare for it, Restlessness of mind as a human problem, Living mindfully in the present, Spiritual components of living of true Dhamma, Remembrance of Srimathie Radhar

Burnier our beloved leader, Developing Awareness in searching the truth, Theosophy the Islamic view point, Unity of Religious recording to the life and message of Sri Sathiya Sai Baba, Towards a higher consciousness, Spiritual and Scientific aspects of Theosophy. Also several Meditation programmes were held.

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

SWITZERLAND

Founded 1910, membership 30. The work is serious in the different Lodges, in which books of *Dr I K Taimni*, *J Krishnamurti*, *HPB* as well as books from Buddhist and Hindu authors, were read.

Ms Eliane Gaillard

Presidential Representative

VENEZUELA

Founded 1953, membership 17. The Lodges were studying the *Bhagavad Gita* and the commemorial dates were celebrated.

Mrs Nelly Nouel

Presidential Agent

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

LOTUS LODGE (CROATIA)

Membership 17. Meetings of the members were organized twice a month. They studied subjects from the following books: *Chakras*, *Man Visible and Invisible*, *Geometry of Divine Sparkle*.

Ms Nada Tepés
Lodge President

EL SOL LODGE (ECUADOR)

Membership (12). No report.

ARC EN CIEL LODGE (FRANCE)

Membership 15. Members of the Lodge met at the Adyar Day function with a lecture by the Lodge President on 'Adyar, A Centre of Force', with projection of photos of the area. Members from Lodge Ananda attended.

Mr Jean Ioza
Lodge President

ANANDA LODGE (FRANCE)

Membership 15. The Lodge met regularly every month and studied *A Study on Consciousness*. Lodge members met on Adyar Day and a lecture by Mr Jean Ioza on 'Adyar, A Centre of Force', with projection of photos of the area. Members from Lodge Arc de Ciel attended. White Lotus Day was also celebrated jointly by the two Lodges. In June they visited Cistercian abbeys in Province and

admired the architecture. In November a public seminar with both Lodges was held in Marseille, gathering 42 people, with a programme on 'Kabbalah in the Secret Doctrine' and 'Art and Spirituality, the Influence of the Theosophical thought among painters'.

Mrs Birgitte Ioza
Lodge President

COVENANT LODGE (ISRAEL)

Membership 75. The Tel Aviv Lodge held three public meetings each month with subjects such as The Bhagavad Gita - a self-transformation instruction for the truth seeker, The vision and goals of

Theosophy in the Mahatma Letters and the founders writings, A wide open heart — developing compassion for self and others, From ignorance to wisdom and from limitation to freedom, Compassion,

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

meditation, and enlightenment, The nature of man's spiritual and psychic forces, Spiritual guidance on "the path of enlightenment" in the Mahatma letters and Tibetan Buddhism. Members' meetings were held weekly and they studied various subjects as well as monthly *The Secret Doctrine*. The group also made hiking excursions, meditating and discussing. Weekend seminars were on 'Inner harmony – merging brain and Soul' and in a monastery, on 'Reinforcing LIFE – experiencing its vibrance and sacredness'. They also held advanced study meetings for facilitators. A one-day

Convention was held on 'A Life of Awareness and Responsibility – Creating beauty, cultivating peace, and being compassionate'. Two introductory courses of Theosophy consisting of about 15 meetings were held, and another course dealing with 'Harmful emotions from theosophical and buddhist perspectives'. They have also six study groups, meeting once a month, focusing on theosophical subjects. Issue no. 99 of the magazine *Or* was printed during the year. The next ones will be only in the internet.

Mr Abraham Oron
Lodge President

H. P. BLAVATSKY LODGE (QATAR)

Membership 9. The Lodge met twice a month with study classes on The Astral Body, on Occult faculties, Masters, and Death and after. Group discussions were on Theosophical topics, J. Krishnamurti's

article and Islam in the Light of Theosophy. Special programmes were held on Foundation Day and White Lotus Day.

Mr Ganesh Shenoy
Lodge President

ORLANDO LODGE (U.S.A.)

Membership 14. The Lodge held meetings twice a month. The first meetings of the month were called 'Meditation of Life', in which they took a reading for discussion after the meditation, and in the second meetings of the month they studied *At The Feet of The Master*. The School of Theosophy held classes on 'Basic Theosophy' in the spring and 'Meditation' in the fall. In October each

year they hold a special Nature Sanctuary Day to promote awareness and appreciation to Nature, with a vegetarian picnic lunch at their Campus. The website is well visited and they publish a quarterly e-newsletter, *Theosophy Today*, which reaches 1,345 readers. A Healing Circle meets once a month.

Mr Carl Metzger
Lodge President

**DIRECTORY
AND
MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL**

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

Date	Section	General Secretary, etc.	Address	Magazine	Email address
1947	Africa, East and Central	... Mr Ebrony Peteli	... PO Box 40844, Mufulira, Zambia	... <i>The Theosophical Light</i>	ebkony.peteli@gmail.com
1909	Africa, South	... Mr Jack Hartmann	... 9 Ronean, 38 Princesses Ave., Windsor E. 2194	... <i>The South African Theosophist</i>	hartmann.jack.c@gmail.com
1956	Africa, West	... Mr John Osmond Boakye	... PO Box 720, Accra, Ghana	... <i>The West African Theosophist</i>	tswafrica@gmail.com
1929	America, Central *	... Mrs Ligia Gutiérrez S.	... Rept. Los Arcos # 43, Ent. Princ. 1 c. Sur 2 c. Abajo, 1 c. Sur, Distrito 2, Managua, Nicaragua		ligusimpson@hotmail.com
1920	Argentina	... Mr Jorge García	... Santiago 257 — 2000, Rosario	... <i>Teosofia en Argentina</i>	stargentina@sociedad-teosofica.com.ar
1990	Asia, East and Southeast †	... Mr Chong Sanne	... 540 Sims Avenue, No. 03-04 Sims Avenue Centre, Singapore 387 603	... <i>Newsletter</i>	sanne@theosophyasia.net
1895	Australia	... Mrs Linda Oliveira	... Level 2, 162 Goulburn St., Surry Hills, NSW 2010	... <i>Theosophy in Australia</i>	tshq@austeos.org.au
1912	Austria *	... Mr Albert Schichl	... Oberbaumgarten 25, 4204 Haibach im Mühlkreis	... <i>Theosophie Adyar</i>	theosophie.austria@aon.at
2013	Bangladesh †	... Mr B. L. Bhattacharya	... B/4-3, Iswarchandra Nibas, 68/1, Bagmari Road, Kolkata 700 054		blbtos_2005@yahoo.com
1911	Belgium	... Mrs Sabine Van Osta	... Place des Gueux 8, B1000 Brussels, Belgium	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	sabine_van_osta@hotmail.com
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1997	Costa Rica †	... Ms Maria Orlich	... Apartado 8-6710-1000, San José		orlichsm@yahoo.com
2007	Croatia ▲	... Mrs Nada Tepeš	... Krajiška ulica 24, 10000 Zagreb	... <i>Teozofija</i>	z.zemlja@gmail.com
1905	Cuba	... Ms Barbara A. Fariñas Piña	... Apartado de Correos 6365, La Habana 10600		teocuba.sociedad@gmail.com
1987	Dominican Rep. †	... Mrs Magaly Polanco	... Calle Santa Agueda 1652 Les Chalet Col San Juan Puerto Rico Apartado 23 00926		polancomagaly@yahoo.com
1888	England	... Mr Colin Price	... 50 Gloucester Place, London W1U 8EA		president@theosoc.org.uk
1907	Finland	... Ms Marja Artamaa	... Teosofinen Seura, Vironkatu 7 C 2, Fin 00170, Helsinki	... <i>Teosofi</i>	teosofinen.seura@netti.fi
1899	France	... Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu	... 4 Square Rapp, 75007 Paris	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	trankindieu@sfr.fr
1902	Germany	... Mrs Manuela Kaulich	... Hauptstr. 39, 93138 Lappersdorf	... <i>Adyar</i>	theosophie-adyar@gmx.de
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1921	Iceland	... Mr Halldor Haraldsson	... PO Box 1257 Ingólfsstræti 22, 121 Reykjavík	... <i>Gangleri</i>	iceland.ts@gmail.com
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1912	Indonesia	... Mr Herry Ispomomo	... Jalan Angrek Nelimurni A-104, Jakarta 11410, Timur	... <i>Theosofi</i>	theosofi.indonesia@gmail.com

1919	Ireland *	...	Mrs Marie Harkness	...	97 Mountsandel Road, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, UK BT52 1TA	...	marieharkness@yahoo.co.uk
1954	Israel ▲	...	Mr Abraham Oron	...	PO Box 9114, Ramat-Gan, Israel 5219002	... Or	ornet@theosophia.co.il
1902	Italy	...	Mr Antonio Girardi	...	Viale Quintino Sella, 83/E, 36100 Vicenza	... Rivista Italiana di Teosofia	sti@teosofica.org
1997	Ivory Coast *	...	Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh	...	Yopougon, 23 Rue Princesse B. P. 3924, Abidjan 23	... Sophia	pm_kouahoh@hotmail.com
1919	Mexico	...	Mrs Lissette Arroyo Jiménez	...	Ignacio Mariscal 126, Col. Tabacalera Mexicana, Mexico, D.F. 06030		sede@sociedadteosofica.mx info@sociedadteosofica.mx
1897	Netherlands, The	...	Ms Els Rijneker	...	Tolsraat 154, 1074 VM Amsterdam	... Theosophia	info@theosofie.nl
1896	New Zealand	...	Mr John Vorstermans	...	18, Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland 1022	... TheoSophia	np@theosophy.org.nz
1913	Norway *	...	Dr Saleh Noshie	...	N-6873-Marifjora		saleh.noshie@bedriftshelse1.no
1935	Orlando ▲	...	Mr Carl Metzger	...	1606 New York Ave. Orlando, Florida, 32803-1838, USA		Theosophical Society CF@gmail.com
1948	Pakistan †	Jamshed Memorial Hall, M. A. Jinnah Road, opp. Radio Pakistan, Karachi	... The Karachi Theosophist	bhagwanbharvani@hotmail.com
1924	Peru †	...	Mr Julio Pomar Calderón	...	Av Republica de Portugal 152, Breña, Lima 5	... Búsqueda	sede-central@sociedadteosoficaenperu.pe
1933	Philippines, The	...	Mr Rosel Doval-Santos	...	Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City, Manila	... The Philippine Theosophist	philtheos@gmail.com
1921	Portugal	...	Mr Carlos Guerra	...	Rua Passos Manoel no. 20 cave 1150 - 260 Lisboa	... Osiris	carlos.a.g.guerra@gmail.com
1925	Puerto Rico †	...	Mrs Magaly Polanco	...	Apartado 36-1766 Correo General. San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-1766.	... Heraldo Teosófico	polancomagaly@yahoo.com
2012	Qatar ▲	...	Mr Dom Escobido	...	Teyseer security services Doha, Qatar		qatarblavatskylodge@yahoo.com
2013	Russia †	...	Mr Pavel Malakhov	...	Molodyozhny pr., 10-221, 650070, Kemerovo, Russia		pr@ts-russia.org
1910	Scotland *	...	Mr Gary Kidgell	...	28 Great King Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6QH	... Circles	garykidgell@hotmail.com
1992	Slovenia *	...	Mrs Breda Zagar	...	Kunaverjeva 1 SLO-1000 Ljubljana	... Teozofska Misel	zagarbreda@gmail.com
1921	Spain	...	Mrs Angels Torra Buron	...	Av. Vall d'or, 85-87 08197 - Valldoreix(Spain)	... Sophia	presidencia@sociedadteosofica.es
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1997	Togo *	...	Mr Kouma Dakey	...	S.O., A.R.T.T., BP76, Adeta		
2013	Ukraine *	...	Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko	...	Office 3, 7-A Zhylianska St., Kiev 01033	... Svitoch	org@theosophy.in.ua
1886	USA	...	Mr Tim Boyd	...	PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL 60187-0270	... The Quest	admin@theosophical.org
1925	Uruguay *	...	Mr Ramon Garcia	...	Javier Barrios Amorín 1085, Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo		st.uruguay@gmail.com
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Date refers to the date of formation

* Regional Association

† Presidential Agency

▲ Lodge attached to Adyar

The Council of the European Federation of National Societies: *Chairman*: Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, F-45000 Orleans, France. Email: trankimdiu@msn.com
 Inter-American Theosophical Federation: *President*: Ms Ligia B. Montiel L., Calle 38, Av. 12 y 14, casa 1276, sabana sureste, San José, Costa Rica. Email: info@teosoficainteramericana.org
 Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation: *President*: Mr John Vorstermans, 60B Riro Street, Point Chevalier, Auckland 1022, New Zealand. Email: john@theosophy.org.nz
 Pan-African Theosophical Federation: *Chairman*: Mr Jack Hartmann, 9 Ronean, 38 Princess Avenue, Windsor E 2194, South Africa. Email: hartmann.jack.c@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Miss Joy Mills, 22 Krotona Hill, Ojai, CA 93023, USA
(for 2014, 2015 and 2016)

Mr Surendra Narayan, C/O. Anupam Narayan, L-20, IInd Floor, South Extension,
Part II, New Delhi 110 049, India
(for 2014, 2015 and 2016)

Mr Ricardo Lindemann, SQS 403 Bloco F Ap. 305, 70.237-060 Brasilia
DF Brazil
(for 2012, 2013 and 2014)

Mr Bhupendra Vora, 108 Highfield Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire
ND3 7PH
(for 2014, 2015 and 2016)

Mr Dusan Zagar, Kunaverjeva, 1, SLO-1000, Slovenia
(for 2014, 2015 and 2016)

Mr Keith Fisher, 5 Homesdale Place, Darlington, Western Australia 6070
(for 2014, 2015 and 2016)

Ms Keshwar Dastur, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai-600 020
(for 2013, 2014, 2015)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

of the Theosophical Society General Council Meeting
held on Thursday, 25 December 2014, at Adyar

PRESENT

Mr Tim Boyd	<i>President and proxy for Ms Joy Mills, Mr Ricardo Lindeman, Mr Bhupendra Vora, Greece and Mexico</i>
Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy	<i>Vice-President and proxy for Mr Surendra Narayan</i>
Mr T. S. Jambunathan	<i>Treasurer</i>
Ms Marja Artamaa	<i>Secretary</i>
Mr T. S. Jambunathan	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr John Osmond Boakye	<i>General Secretary, West Africa</i>
Mrs Linda Oliveira	<i>General Secretary, Australia and proxy for Mr Keith Fisher</i>
Mrs Sabine van Osta	<i>General Secretary, Belgium</i>
Mr Marcos L. B. Resende	<i>General Secretary, Brazil</i>
Mr Colin Price	<i>General Secretary, England</i>
Ms Marja Artamaa	<i>General Secretary, Finland</i>
Ms Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu	<i>General Secretary, France and proxy for Iceland and Portugal</i>
Mrs Manuela Kaulich	<i>General Secretary, Germany</i>
Mr S. Sundaram	<i>General Secretary, India and proxy for Mr Dusan Zagar</i>
Ms Els Rijneker	<i>General Secretary, Netherlands</i>
Mr John Vorstermans	<i>General Secretary, New Zealand</i>
Ms Angeles Torra Buron	<i>General Secretary, Spain</i>
Mr Pertti Spets	<i>General Secretary, Sweden</i>
Mr Tim Boyd	<i>General Secretary, U.S.A</i>
Ms Keshwar Dastur	<i>Additional Member</i>

Present as Observers :

Mr Narashimha Rao

The President welcomed those present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 December 2013 at Adyar having been circulated, were taken as read, accepted, and signed.

2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

With reference to paragraph 12 (c) of the minutes of the General Council 2013, the Vice-President explained that legal advice has been obtained regarding section 15

(4) of the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. It has been clarified that section 15 (4) specifies a limit of 3 years for the term of office of the members of the committee which every registered society is required to have under section 15 (1). The legal advice is that there is no conflict between the provisions of section 15 (4) of the Tamil Nadu Act and rule 14 of the TS rules since the latter specifies that the General Council shall appoint the Executive Committee each year in its annual meeting. Members of the Executive Committee are appointed for only 1 year and hence there is no need to seek an exemption from the provisions of section 15 (4) of the Tamil Nadu Act.

3. Voting for Additional General Council members

Election of Prof. R. C. Tampi, Mr D. K. Govindaraj and Mr P. K. Jayaswal as Additional Members.

The President had nominated *Prof. R C Tampi, Mr. D K Govindaraj and Mr. P K Jayaswal* for election under Rule 2 of the Rules and Regulations as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017. Their bio-data were sent by email on 10 September 2014. The result of the voting was as follows:

	<i>For:</i>	<i>Against:</i>	<i>Abstained:</i>
Prof. R. C. Tampi	27	1	8
Mr D. K. Govindaraj	26	2	8
Mr P. K. Jayaswal	26	2	8

Prof. R. C. Tampi, Mr D. K. Govindaraj and Mr P. K. Jayaswal were declared elected as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Discussion about the additional members' role and age took place. Principally it is a matter of capability, and not of age.

4. Report on the Non-English Publications Fund

The Secretary reported that the NEPF Funds held by the TS in America was US\$ 35,213 and NEPF Funds held by TS in Europe was US\$ 70,706. Total being US\$ 105,919 (last year total was US\$ 111,332).

The General Secretary from Sweden reported that their application sent 2-3 years back, has not yet been considered. He was advised to send the application again to the Secretary.

5. Report on the International Funds

The Secretary reported that the balance which stood at US\$ 1,894,682 on 30 September 2013 has increased to US\$ 1,962,449 on 30 September 2014.

6. Report by the President on Headquarters

a) The President had nominated Mr Chittaranjan Satapathy as Vice-President, and he was elected by the General Council in June 2014. He is now in retirement, has had experience in administration and in large election processes, and has gained a reputation of running them with the best of care. He has been of enormous help in the TS administration. A General Secretary stated that having known Dr Chittaranjan for years, she certified that what the Vice-President does, is done correctly. Another General Secretary expressed that the Vice-President has an honorable character. This discussion ensued because a TS member and an ex-member have raised a legal case about the last Presidential election.

b) A number of buildings need to be renovated. Some renovations have already started. The Headquarters Building, Olcott Bungalow and LBC dining hall and kitchen are some examples.

c) The President reported on changes in responsibilities: In the Editorial Department, Mrs Idarmis Rodríguez is in charge, in addition to her being the Secretary to the President. In the Theosophical Publishing House (TPH) Mr Umakanth Rao is now the Acting Manager.

d) Four School of the Wisdom sessions have been scheduled. Olcott Education Society (OES) is composed of 5 units: Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School, Social Welfare Centre, Vocational Training Centre, HPB Boys Hostel and the Visitors Centre. In the Olcott School it was possible to start a Computer Centre by an outside donation of Rs. 1,5 million this year. There will be donation of Rs. 3,3 million per year over the next 3 years. The Social Welfare Centre has about 60 children. Vocational Training Centre runs a 50-day vocational training program for young people, followed by employment. The initial 16 students, all have found employment. The programme is called UNNATI and it will expand.

e) The lease of KFI in Damodar Gardens ended on 3 September 2014 and they have not vacated yet. A legal notice has been issued to KFI.

7. Appointment of Executive Committee for 2015

The following Executive Committee members were unanimously appointed for 2015:

Mr Tim Boyd	President (ex-officio)
Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy	Vice-President (ex-officio)
Ms Marja Artamaa	Secretary (ex-officio)
Mr Narashimha Rao	Treasurer (ex-officio)

Mr Surendra Narayan	General Council Member
Prof. R. C. Tampi	General Council Member
Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	Member
Mr C. A. Shinde	Member
Mr A. L. Somayaji	Member
Dr M. V. Rengarajan	Member

8. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 had been previously circulated by email and were approved.

9. The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2016

The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2016, was considered and discussed.

The wages of TS Adyar employees have been examined. As a number of salaries have fallen below the minimum wage level, the Executive Committee has budgeted a raise in salaries. Support from Sections is welcome in years to come. The General Secretary from Australia reported that the Section will, during the next 3 years, transfer interest from their special account for Adyar Security Fund, for the wages. After 3 years they will review the amount to be transferred. The President mentioned that he might request the transfer of additional money from this Fund rather than only the interest.

Part of the Security personnel will be outsourced. There are 30 guards and the need is for 30 more. Management of Animal Welfare was transferred from OES to the TS in the budget.

The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2016, was unanimously approved.

10. Appointment of Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2015

M/s Srihari & Co. were re-appointed as Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2015 on the same terms as before. They have been our Auditors since 2009. It may be healthy to consider a change for next year.

11. Discussion on work around the world

The General Secretaries present reported about their main activities, which also served as a warm-up for the planning meeting on 1st and 2nd January.

12. Formation of Committee to Review Rules & Regulations

A Committee to Review Rules & Regulations was appointed as follows: Mrs Linda Oliveira, as chairperson, Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy, Mr Marcos de Resende, Ms Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu and Mrs Sabine van Osta as members. The Committee was advised to go through all rules one by one and also take into consideration the length of the terms. A draft proposal should be submitted two months before the next General Council meeting for discussion. The President mentioned that it is good to review rules every 7 years.

A. Points received from General Secretary, South Africa

1. Resolution to change the procedure for the Presidential Election.

Discussion: Every president, except Jinarajadasa, has died in the position of President. President Tim Boyd recommends terms of presidency to be 2 terms maximum (14 years). This would require a president to think in terms of succession. The changes proposed regarding the election rules were referred to the Rules Committee for examination.

2. Addition to the Rules and Regulations as follows:-

'It is mandatory for the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer to be in the Headquarters at Adyar for not less than 214 days (amounting to about 7 months) in each calendar year. Only a serious medical emergency requiring such prolonged absence will be admissible.'

The discussion resulted in the following views: Reside is to have one's home in Adyar. The President can be some days in Adyar and some days travelling doing theosophical work in India and elsewhere. Nowadays one can communicate by electronic means and Skype etc.

Behind the suggestion might be the concern of how to manage Adyar and how it would be best served. Identifying capable people, responsible people, and allowing them to express themselves is much better nowadays than earlier. We have to create means to attract more members to the work and to get involved with it.

After full discussion, it was decided to reject the proposal.

B. Point received from the General Secretary, Germany

Addition to the Rules and Regulations as follows:-

'No person holding the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, General Secretary/ National President, and Additional General Council Member shall hold any other full-time elected office in the Theosophical Society concurrently. The only exceptions shall be in respect of ex-officio positions and, in the case of

Additional General Council Members alone, membership on the Executive Committee, National Council, National Executive Committee and/ or offices in other subordinate bodies which do not carry either a power to nominate or vote in the General Council.'

Discussion: This is very much a matter of the capability of an individual. One person can do many things at the same time; another person can fulfill a task, another person could do little in that position. We tend to look from our shoes, as we are struggling with volunteers, and do not always know the capacity of another. Let the Sections make decisions in their governing body whether a person is capable of carrying two functions.

After full discussion, it was decided to reject the proposal.

13. Nomination of Dr John Algeo for award of the Subba Row Medal

The President read the letter of nomination by Joy Mills and Robert Ellwood and proposed that the Subba Row Medal be awarded to Dr John Algeo. It was unanimously decided to award the Subba Row Medal to Dr John Algeo for his immense contribution to Theosophical literature.

14. Any other business

a) During the General Council meeting, a question was raised as to why no reply was given to the member who had raised questions on the election process. The Vice-President clarified as follows:

Rule 10(a) specifies that the election committee shall be answerable only to the Executive Committee. Hence the election committee and its members could not reply to queries from the individual members or General Council members while the election process was on. The committee, as per the same rule, stood automatically dissolved on the declaration of the results of the election and could not correspond with anyone thereafter. However, every complaint was enquired into and the Executive Committee was kept informed about all the developments. The election committee received only 7 votes directly from the Fellows at Large attached to Adyar. The rest of the votes were received by the respective General Secretaries, Regional Secretaries, and so forth, and only the voting results were received from them by the election committee. As such, the election was conducted in accordance with the International Rules by all concerned. Only one stray member of the Indian Section from Andhra Pradesh was making unsubstantiated allegations against the nomination process and the voting done in Karnataka without any evidence, and his allegations were found to be false on enquiry. Further, instead of taking up his grievances within the Section he was spreading unsubstantiated allegations over the internet worldwide. The General

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

Secretary of the Indian Section has conducted the elections strictly in accordance with the Rules. He and his wife have dedicated their life to the work of the TS, which they have been doing with great honesty, integrity, and dignity. He has been elected as the General Secretary of the Indian Section for the 4th time unopposed, and the members of the Indian Section have complete faith in him and his fairness. On the other hand, the person who is complaining has no time to devote to the TS work and his diploma has been cancelled for his anti-TS activities by the Indian Section, with 31 members approving the action and only 1 member opposing.

b) Date of the General Council meeting.

It was proposed by the President to change the date of the General Council meeting to December 30.

The General Council agreed to hold the next General Council meeting on December 30, 2015.

It was recommended to the Executive Committee to consider the Opening of the Convention to be on December 31.

The President thanked all present. He appreciated the openness of the Council members while discussing difficult questions and said that they have a capacity to do a lot of good work.

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